Oral Questions on Notice

Question 1: Australian officers in the DPKO
    (i)   There are 16 (Australian) staff placed in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. Which departments do they represent?

Answer

    (i)   There are currently 16 Australian nationals working in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO). The UN confirmed on 10 August that an Australian national has been appointed to the position of Senior Police Adviser in DPKO – the most senior police position in the UN.

              There are currently two Australian Government-seconded officers (Department of Defence) in the DPKO. The DPKO's policy is not to allow for more than three seconded officers from any one country to work in the DPKO at the one time.

              Other Australians working in DPKO do so in a personal capacity.

Question 2: Responsibilities of Australian staff in the DPKO and Australia's permanent representation to the UN

What responsibilities do the Australian staff involved in peacekeeping have

    (i)   in DPKO?

    (ii)   in Australia's permanent mission to the UN?

Answer

(i) DPKO

An Australian national has recently secured the position of Police Adviser, the most senior police position in the DPKO (this position is not a seconded position).

There are two seconded Department of Defence officers in DPKO. One is a Training Officer, in the Training and Evaluation Service, and another is a Planning Officer, in the Military Planning Service.

According to the 'List of staff of the United Nations Secretariat as at 1 July 2006' (the most current document available) there were a further 14 Australian citizens employed with the DPKO on a personal basis in the following positions:

Records Management Officer, Office of the Under-Secretary General
Director, Mine Action Service
Liaison Officer, Office of the Military Adviser
Senior Political Affairs Officer, Asia and Middle East Division
Associate Political Affairs Officer, Africa Division
Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary General of the Office of Mission Support
Acting Director, Administrative Support Division
Training Officer, Civilian Training and Development Section
General Service Officer, Administrative and Travel Section
Supply Officer, Office of the Chief of the Specialist Support Service
Engineer, Engineering Section, Office of the Chief of the Specialist Support Service
Medical Officer, Medical Support Section, Office of the Chief of the Specialist Support Service
Communications Officer, Information Systems Section, Office of the Chief of Service
Logistics Officer, Surface Transport Section, Office of Mission Support.

(ii) Australia's Permanent Mission to the UN

A number of staff at Australia's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York work on issues relating to peacekeeping and peacebuilding activities under the strategic guidance of the Head of Mission (HOM) and Deputy Head of Mission (DHOM).

DFAT staff (two Counsellors, two First Secretaries and a locally-engaged (LE) Policy Officer), Defence staff (Attache, Assistant Attache, LE Policy Officer and LE Office Manager), AFP staff (Counsellor and LE Office Manager) and the AusAID Counsellor are responsible, to varying degrees, for engaging on a regular basis with the UN Secretariat, Security Council and Member States on peacekeeping issues in relation to their particular areas of geographic or thematic responsibility, including on UN peacekeeping reform and the development of doctrine and policy.

DFAT (Counsellor) and Defence (Attache and LES Research Officer) and AFP (Counsellor)) are responsible for Australia's engagement in the work of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping (C34), which reports to the Special Political and Decolonisation Committee (Fourth Committee) on UN peacekeeping issues, including on reform and the development of doctrine and policy. Defence and AFP staff are also responsible for engaging with the UN Secretariat on operational matters, including the management and administrative aspects of Australia's contributions to peacekeeping operations.

DFAT staff (Counsellor and First Secretary) monitor and engage in the work of the Fourth Committee, including on peacekeeping operations.

The Administrative and Budgetary Committee (Fifth Committee) assesses and approves the administrative management and financing of UN peacekeeping operations. DFAT (First Secretary and LE Policy Officer) monitor and engage in the work of the Fifth Committee, including on peacekeeping operations.

The Legal Committee (Sixth Committee) deals with international legal matters, including those associated with peacekeeping operations, such as the conduct of UN peacekeepers. A DFAT officer (First Secretary) monitors and engages in the Sixth Committee on Australia's behalf and attends meetings of the Peacebuilding Commission (PBC).

AusAID staff (Counsellor and an LE Policy Officer) manage engagement with the Peacebuilding Support Office (which complements the PBC by developing integrated peacebuilding frameworks and consulting with major stakeholders) and undertake a range of representational responsibilities with UN agencies, including through participation in donor support groups.

Question 3: Quarterly report to the UN on Australia's capacity

(i)   How are Australia's quarterly United Nations Stand-by Arrangement System (UNSAS) Reports coordinated and supplied?

(ii)   Do they cover mostly military matters?

(iii)   Do they have anything to do with our police and experts in a civilian capacity?

(iv)   Is it possible to provide a copy of the most recent report?

Answer

(i)   Joint Preparedness Management staff in Headquarters Joint Operations Command compile the list of force elements in the UNSAS in consultation with Navy, Army and Air Force Headquarters. Nomination of force elements is based on an assessment of Australia's capacity to provide these elements within the requisite 90 day time frame if directed by the Government. This capacity is assessed in light of the need to retain capacity to conduct and sustain current operations, and provide response options for other contingencies. It is important to note that the system is based on conditional pledges by United Nations member states to contribute specific resources within agreed response times and restrictions into a UN peace operation. One of the most important conditions is that the final decision whether to actually deploy the resources or not remains a national or government decision. The quarterly force availability assessment is aligned with Defence's Quarterly Strategic Review, which assesses the likely strategic environment and its implication for Defence during the next 18 months. Once the report is prepared it is cabled to our Defence Attache in UN New York who supplies it to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

(ii)   Yes

(iii)   No

(iv)   Yes – please see attached report.

UNITED NATIONS STAND-BY ARRANGEMENTS SYSTEM (UNSAS)
QUARTERLY STATUS REPORT
JULY TO SEPTEMBER 2007

Serial	Contribution Category	Description	Personnel	Response Time	Remarks
(a)	(b)	©	(d)	(e)	(h)
1	Navy	Ships patrol or combatant	200	30 days	
2	Navy	Military Sea Lift	230	90 days	Capable of transporting up to 340 personnel plus 18 main battle tanks (subject to all up weight of tank) or 60 APC or 95 medium trucks.
3	Headquarters	Headquarters staff officers (Navy, Army and Air Force)	10	90 days	Staff officers for employment within an English-speaking force headquarters.
4	Military Observers	Military Observers (Navy, Army and Air Force)	10	• 90 days	Officers for employment as military observers or inspectors within an English speaking mission.
5	Air	Transport Aircraft Unit	30	30 days	2 x Caribou aircraft for short range air transport.
6	Air	Air Services Unit	30	60 days	Airfield Defence Guard Flight.

Written Questions on Notice

1. **With the increased range of activities undertaken in peace operations, a larger number of agencies now contribute to Australia's response. Submissions have mentioned a number of departments that have been involved in recent operations including: Defence, DFAT, AFP, AusAID, PM&C, Attorney-General's, AEC, Treasury, Finance, Customs and Health and Ageing. However, it is difficult to find comprehensive, publicly-reported information about agency representation in peace operations.**

- **Can DFAT confirm for the committee which commonwealth departments and agencies have contributed personnel to each of the various peace operations in East Timor, the Solomon Islands and Bougainville, and the nature of their contribution?**

Answer

East Timor

Defence and the Australian Federal Police have contributed to various peace operations in East Timor since 1999. Since 2006, DFAT has provided Liaison Officers (LOs) in the International Security Force in East Timor.

Solomon Islands

The following Australian agencies have deployed personnel to the Regional Assistance Mission to Solomon Islands (RAMSI), working as advisers or in in-line positions under RAMSI programs: Attorney-General's Department, AusAID, Australian Electoral Commission, Australian Federal Police, Australian Defence Force, Customs, Department of Defence, Finance, DFAT, Office of Financial Management, National Archives and Treasury.

Bougainville

Australian Federal Police, AusAID, DFAT, the Department of Veterans' Affairs and both the military and civilian components of Defence contributed staff as members of the Peace Monitoring Group and/or the Truce Monitoring Group on Bougainville.

2. **The multifaceted nature of modern peace operations has meant that civilian experts are increasingly involved, for example in areas of justice, governance, finance etc**

    a. **How are civilian experts recruited for peace operations?**

    b. **Do screening procedures apply? What are the eligibility requirements?**

    c. **How are Australian civilians participating in peace operations remunerated?**

> **d. Who do civilian participants report to?**
>
> **e. What discipline arrangements apply should misconduct occur?**
>
> **f. What reporting and complaints procedures exist should deployed officers observe misconduct?**

Answer

The use of civilian experts depends on the individual mission. RAMSI provides an example of the processes used when civilian experts are involved.

a. AusAID and other Australian government agencies select Australian public servants for seconded positions in RAMSI from their existing staff or, where the right skill sets are not readily available, by merit selection via the Australian Public Service Gazette and the press.

Civilian experts are recruited for their skills on a merit-selection basis, by utilising a range of engagement options. Contractors can be engaged in a number of ways, including directly by GRM International, through the contract for Provision of Services for Governance and Related Aid Activity in Solomon Islands.

AusAID can also enter into direct contract arrangements for the provision of technical advisers following appropriate tender and or selection exercises consistent with the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines.

b. Selection criteria are tailored to select people with the right skills for the position in the particular environment.

Australian Public Service employees selected for deployment are required to undergo a security clearance and must abide by the APS Code of Conduct and Values while overseas.

Personnel engaged by GRM International are contractually obliged to adhere to a Code of Conduct (which was developed in consultation with AusAID). As part of GRM's standard contract conditions, contract personnel are also required to sign a declaration that they and all associated staff engaged on specific projects are of good name and character, and have never been convicted of a criminal offence.

c. Australian Public Service employees are remunerated through a package of overseas allowances and salary. These allowances are paid to compensate for the higher cost of goods and services and the hardship associated with life in that overseas locality.

Remuneration for personnel engaged by GRM varies according to the specific technical skills set required for particular positions. It is determined in consultation with AusAID and GRM is required to apply appropriate market-tested rates and apply value-for-money criteria to all selections. The market rates paid are regularly tested by AusAID or its service providers.

d. RAMSI civilians report to their respective supervisors. This could be a Team Leader/Program Director and, where relevant, to their Solomon

Islands Government supervisor. If the person is working in an in-line position, his or her supervisor is a Solomon Islands Government official. If the civilian is an adviser, he or she reports up the RAMSI chain of command (but is expected to work with his or her Solomon Islands counterparts to remain effective in undertaking his or her role). The Special Coordinator retains overall responsibility for the strategic direction, oversight and coordination of all RAMSI activities.

e. All RAMSI deployees are required to comply with Solomon Islands laws and regulations, the applicable laws of their home country, and with all applicable regulations, policies, directions and guidelines relating to their official and personal conduct. RAMSI deployees must also comply with the various Codes of Conduct by which they are governed, including: public service Codes of Conduct, Commander's Orders (of Commander Participating Police Force and Commander Combined Task Force), contracting agencies' Codes of Conduct, and participating country Codes of Conduct.

Civilian contractors under the RAMSI Law and Justice Program, the RAMSI Economic Governance Program and the RAMSI Machinery of Government Program are bound by a Code of Conduct through the relevant Managing Contractor, GRM International and Sinclair Knight Mertz (SKM). Personnel are orally briefed about the Code of Conduct and required to verify that they have read the Code of Conduct at the time they sign their contract.

All Australian Public Servants deployed under the RAMSI programs must comply with the Australian Public Service Code of Conduct, which includes complying with all applicable Australian laws. In addition, DFAT officers deployed to Solomon Islands as part of RAMSI are bound by DFAT's Code of Conduct for overseas service.

A range of disciplinary measures can be applied depending on the nature of the misconduct. These include counselling, removal of the deployee, and termination of employment. Investigations into alleged misconduct are conducted in the spirit of natural justice.

f. RAMSI deployees are encouraged to report apparent or alleged misconduct to the RAMSI Special Coordinator and to their respective Team Leader/Program Director. RAMSI investigates all complaints of misconduct against its personnel.

3. **Jim Rolfe, Associate Professor, Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies 2001, argued that 'there is a need to ensure that Western cultural assumptions and approaches do not unthinkingly get transferred into situations where they may not be suitable'. He suggested that events in Bougainville showed that 'there is a cultural component to peacekeeping…and that it is a sensible peacekeeper who acknowledges this and takes account when planning an operation'.[1]**

---

[1] Jim Rolfe, 'Peacekeeping the Parliament of the Commonwealth Way in Bougainville', *International Peacekeeping,* vol. 8, no. 4 Winter 2001, p. 53.

- **What measures does DFAT take to ensure that Western assumptions are not transferred into peace operations 'where they may not be suitable'? Could you give some specific example in answering this question?**

Answer

Bougainville

In the case of Bougainville, DFAT staff deployed as civilian peace monitors participated in a pre-deployment acclimatisation, familiarisation and cultural awareness program run by Defence on Thursday Island in the Torres Strait and at Bamaga on Cape York. Civilian monitors were hosted for a week of familiarisation training by C Coy, 51FNQR. The training focused on military familiarisation and, taking advantage of the skills and cultural background of the Thursday Islander members of C Coy, cultural familiarisation. Many of the Thursday Islanders spoke Tok Pisin and had family links with PNG.

This program provided monitors with cultural and military familiarisation, as well as an understanding of the historical context of Bougainville, whilst noting the cultural differences between Melanesia and the Torres Strait. Cultural awareness was also an integral part of the intensive pre-deployment Tok Pisin language training which deployees received, whilst interviewees for deployee positions were questioned on cultural sensitivities.

This familiarisation greatly assisted civilian monitors to engage effectively with the various parties and the wider community on Bougainville from the beginning of their deployments. Monitors were trained to exercise cultural awareness and sensitivity in dealing with local people on Bougainville.

Throughout their deployment, monitors maintained a strong emphasis on consulting broadly within the community, and taking the time to discuss carefully any issues or problems with local stakeholders. Indeed, the terms of the truce and peace monitoring operations on Bougainville were the result of extensive consultations between key indigenous stakeholders. Cultural differences were acknowledged from the start, and part of the solution was to let those who had been involved in the conflict provide guidance in managing the peace process, including in relation to cultural sensitivities. The Fijian and ni-Vanuatu members of the multinational TMG/PMG also provided helpful guidance on cultural issues.

One specific example of cultural sensitivity was the emphasis given to talking through issues and problems, and the seeking of the views of all concerned, before endeavouring to arrive at a solution.

Solomon Islands

In the case of RAMSI, APS employees undertake a comprehensive, four-day training course comprising seminars and briefings, conducted by the Operations Support Unit, AusAID, prior to deployment. Training covers presentations related to AusAID's Peace, Conflict and Development policy and the UNDP Peace and Conflict Development Analysis relating to post-conflict peace building and reconciliation in the Solomon Islands. The presentation on peace and conflict-sensitive approaches to development cooperation emphasizes the importance of cross-cultural perspectives in development and peace building

and the importance of analysing, understanding and positively interacting in and with the specific context. Capacity building of, and genuine ownership by, Solomon Islanders are considered critical in initiatives undertaken. Cultural sensitivity training and initial basic Pijin language training are provided to deployees.

Presentations by experts from the Research School of Pacific and Asian Studies ANU cover cross-cultural issues in relation to the role of women and youth in peace building. Briefings provided by the State, Society and Governance in Melanesia (SSGM) project, ANU, include sections on Melanesian political cultures, social structures, community values, and social behaviour that differ significantly from 'Western' cultural forms and behaviour. Specific examples include: instruction on 'big-man' leadership and 'wantokism' and its implications for effective and responsible governance, in contrast to western models of representation, authority and bureaucracy; community 'ownership' of goods and ideas, in contrast to Western individualism; notions of social obligations that run counter to Western 'rules' of impartiality; notions of the state as seen by many in Melanesia. In terms of briefings on peace and conflict, SSGM provides instruction on the nature of kinship-based societies, the causes of inter-group fighting, the likely long-term nature of grievance; the resolutions (partial and otherwise) of peace-making; the notion and nature of 'compensation'; the differing roles of men, women and youth in conflict and peace; the limited roles outsiders can play in minimising conflict and assisting the peace; and notions of 'restorative justice' rather than 'retributive justice' when it comes to questions of settlement and punishment.

DFAT officers regularly provide pre-deployment briefing for AFP personnel (and police personnel from other contributing Pacific Islands countries undertaking pre-deployment training in Canberra) being deployed to RAMSI as part of the Participating Police Force (PPF). These briefings cover Solomon Islands historical, political and social context, and issues related to cultural sensitivity and awareness.

Non-APS civilian deployees undertake pre-deployment training conducted by their contracting manager (GRM, SKM etc.), comprising seminars and briefings.

Following arrival in Honiara, all RAMSI civilian, police and military deployees undertake a two-day induction and cultural orientation program developed by the RAMSI Public Affairs Unit and involving local Solomon Islanders as presenters. RAMSI civilian and Participating Police Force (PPF) advisors are offered a six-week Pijin language course. Night classes are available at the RAMSI Base for members of the PPF personnel living on base.

Australian Public Service officers seconded from the Treasury and Department of Finance have previously undertaken village stays in remote provincial areas as part of an induction program on arrival in Solomon Islands. RAMSI is considering offering village stays to other deployees as part of future induction programs.

RAMSI deployees and their Solomon Islands colleagues recently began participating in the newly-devised 'Making a Difference' course – a five-day course on capacity building, which focuses on improving communication and

working relationships in a cross-cultural setting. This course provides two-way training for RAMSI deployees and their colleagues to improve understanding about each other and their respective cultures. To date, 36 people have attended the 'Making a Difference' capacity development workshops.

As a result of a major review of pre-deployment training, the International Deployment Group of the Australian Federal Police, has developed a new five week training package for Participating Police Force deployees that incorporates capacity building, coaching, human rights and the inter-relationship between these issues. In various scenario-training, deployees must deal with a number of sensitive issues including a death in a community and according due respect to a 'big man' in a community.

4.   In your view, are Australians well-informed about Australia's peacekeeping activities? On what basis do you make this assessment?

•   What are the main sources of information for the public about Australia's involvement in peacekeeping activities?

Answer

The level of awareness of Australians about Australia's peacekeeping activities would depend on the degree of individual interest. Information on Australia's involvement in peacekeeping is easily accessible. The public can access information about Australia's involvement in peacekeeping activities from Government websites and annual reports, including those of the Australian Federal Police, AusAID, Defence and DFAT. Details of Australia's engagement in and contribution to UN peacekeeping missions is also readily available on the UN website.

In relation to RAMSI, in addition to regular mainstream media etc., there is a RAMSI web site (www.ramsi.org), as well as agency-specific websites detailing Australian involvement in RAMSI (both ADF and AFP maintain operation-specific website pages). The DFAT website (www.dfat.gov.au) includes a link to the RAMSI website.

5.   In response to a question about 'a peacekeeping type of unit', Assistant Commissioner Walters replied that:

I do not see that there is a need to establish a separate peacekeeping capability. We do support a concept that has been mentioned in some of the submissions, and that is a think tank or a strategic capability that would be whole of government with all the various agencies contributing to that—AFP, ADF, AusAID, Defence and all the other agencies… [it] would be there to inform, particularly from a strategic perspective, how Australia can best position itself to respond to peacekeeping and other initiatives. That facility would also engage with other institutions—non-government organisations and the academic

world—to inform the process. (Proof *Committee Hansard*, 25
July 2007, p. 34)

- **What are your views on the establishment of such a 'think tank'- its value,
structure etc?**

Answer

Well-established mechanisms that provide strategic oversight of Australia's
peace operations are already in place. In particular, there exists a multilayered
and integrated set of coordination mechanisms which operate to monitor and
evaluate peace operations at the strategic level. These include the National
Security Committee of Cabinet (NSC), the Secretaries Committee on National
Security, the Deputy-Secretary-level Strategic Policy Coordination Group
(SPCG) and a number of mission-specific interdepartmental committees.
DFAT also chairs the Peace Operations Working Group, which is attended by
the Attorney-General's Department, AusAID, Defence and the Australian
Federal Police. The working group discusses a range of peacekeeping policy
issues including the work of the UN's Special Committee on Peacekeeping
(C34) and regional capacity-building initiatives.

ANAO audit

6. **In a recent performance audit of the coordination of Australian
Government assistance to the Solomon Islands, 2 the ANAO suggested
that RAMSI's Office of the Special Coordinator formally capture the
lesson from the April 2006 civil unrest and riots and put in place an
approach to capturing key lesson from any future security incidents.
DFAT agreed with this recommendation.**

- **How will these lessons be captured and what processes can be put in place
for capturing future lessons?**

Answer

In a letter of 29 May 2007, from Mr Michael L'Estrange AO, Secretary,
DFAT, to Mr Peter White, Executive Director, ANAO, it was noted that a
broad 'lessons learned' exercise had already been undertaken in relation to the
April 2006 civil unrest. Resulting from this exercise, RAMSI, in consultation
with in-country agencies, had strengthened civilian security, including
establishing clear lines of communication in Honiara.

All residences and workplaces of RAMSI personnel have been inspected,
significant physical security measures have been implemented, and a security
web site was launched to provide information to RAMSI personnel, including
information on responding to security incidents. DFAT has also drafted and
circulated a paper that outlines the responsibilities of Canberra-based agencies

---

2   ANAO Report No. 47 2006-07, *Coordination of Australian Government Assistance to
Solomon Islands*, p. 20.

with respect to the security of RAMSI civilian deployees and lines of communication for Canberra-based agencies on civilian security issues.

A new civilian security plan was also developed in accordance with Australian and New Zealand standards, which provides a comprehensive approach to the security of all civilian RAMSI personnel. The security process, outlined in the new civilian security plan, includes regular threat and risk assessments based on incident reporting and information from other organisations including the Participating Police Force and Combined Task Force (military). Pre-determined mitigation measures have been developed to respond to changes in threat levels or individual risk ratings should the need arise.

In addition, the two in-country RAMSI Security Officers are now better integrated into the Office of the Special Coordinator (OSC) and in planning activities. One example of how security issues are now dealt with is the way RAMSI responded to the tsunami in April 2007, after which lessons learned were identified and presented at a RAMSI Civilian Forum and posted on the internal (restricted access) RAMSI Civilian Security website (set up in early 2007).

One of the most important lessons learnt from the tsunami was the importance of OSC knowing the locations of all RAMSI civilians in the event that coordination or evacuation was required, and to determine who could have been affected by the event. In order to address this concern, OSC requires all RAMSI civilians to enter their current and planned movements on to the RAMSI Civilian Security website.

OSC is also currently developing a Coordination Plan for all RAMSI civilians that will provide the structure for communications and coordination in the event of heightened security (or safety) concerns such as the April 2006 riots or April 2007 tsunami.

Lessons have also been captured by the RAMSI Participating Police Force (PPF) which, together with the Combined Task Force, works in support of the Solomon Islands Police Force to provide the policing response in the event of security incidents. Advice from the PPF in relation to security matters is crucial to planning for civilian security. A key element is an integrated approach by all agencies. Additionally, in line with our requirements to develop the capacity of the Solomon Islands Police Force (SIPF), our approach also encourages SIPF to develop operational plans and integrated operational activities.

7. **The ANAO also recommended that DFAT improve reporting arrangements to Government by including in progress reports a limited number of key performance indicators and targets.[3]**

    a. **Has DFAT determined which indicators will be used for this purpose?**

---

[3]   ANAO Report No. 47 2006-07, *Coordination of Australian Government Assistance to Solomon Islands*, p. 80.

  b. How does the Department report to Government on the progress of other operations?

Answer

  a. DFAT briefs relevant Ministers on RAMSI on a six-monthly basis. The report provides a list of RAMSI's key achievements under each RAMSI program in the respective six-month period. Future six-monthly briefings will report against a number of key RAMSI performance indicators. Indicators used for RAMSI performance assessment will relate to progress against RAMSI's medium-term objectives in the areas of security and policing, justice and correction, economic governance, machinery of government, and capacity development.

  The regional nature of RAMSI requires that RAMSI report to all contributing governments in order to provide regular updates on the work and progress of RAMSI. RAMSI, therefore, issues a monthly 'Report to Pacific Islands Forum on RAMSI', which is circulated to the Forum Secretary-General, Forum Chair, Forum Member Leaders and Forum Member Foreign Ministers. The report provides an update on each of RAMSI's programs, other relevant organisational issues and public affairs work undertaken. This report includes specific details of recent inputs and visits undertaken by contributing agencies, milestones, progress achieved and future planning. The Pacific Islands Forum plans soon to post the report on its web site, also linked to the RAMSI web site.

  b. In the case of Bougainville, DFAT regularly reported on developments to the Minister for Foreign Affairs. With regard to East Timor, DFAT reports to the Minister for Foreign Affairs as required.

8. **While internal RAMSI reporting arrangements to Government were found by the ANAO to be appropriate, deficiencies were identified in external reporting to Parliament. The ANAO concluded that 'it would not be possible to readily identify from agency PBSs and annual reports the extent of Australian Government agency involvement in the RAMSI effort. This is particularly the case in respect of the resources deployed by those agencies'. The ANAO suggested that as the coordinating agency, DFAT should collect and publish summary information about the involvement of each Australian Government agency in RAMSI.[4]**

  a. **What information will DFAT publish regarding agency involvement in RAMSI?**

  b. **Will this suggestion be similarly applied to other operations with multi-agency input, such as in East Timor?**

---

[4]   In response DFAT advised the ANAO that it 'will note the involvement of other agencies in its Annual Report and on the RAMSI website'. ANAO Report No. 47 2006-07, p. 82.

Answer

    a.   As recommended in the ANAO Report, commencing 2006-07, DFAT will specifically refer to the involvement of other agencies that contribute to RAMSI in its Annual Report. RAMSI also refers to the involvement of other agencies on relevant pages of the RAMSI website. The RAMSI Annual Performance Report 2005-06 was published on the RAMSI website. The 2006-07 Report will also be published on the RAMSI website once finalised.

        The Pacific Islands Forum plans soon to post the report on its web site, also linked to the RAMSI website.

    b.   This will depend on the nature of the individual operation.