

## OPERATION BALI ASSIST – SUMMARY OF DEFENCE SUPPORT

- Operation BALI ASSIST was the Australian Defence Force (ADF) contribution to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) led whole of government response to the tragic bombings in Bali that occurred late on the evening of 12 October 2002.
- The ADF priority throughout the operation was to provide medical assistance and aero-medical evacuation (AME) support to those injured in the bomb blasts.
- The prime task throughout the medical evacuation was to get the seriously injured, once stabilised, from Bali to Darwin, and then from Darwin to southern cities for further medical treatment as quickly and as safely as possible.
- Defence responded quickly to the call for assistance with the first AME team airborne in less than six hours from being notified of the mission.
- A total of five C-130 aircraft, 12 crews and five AME teams deployed from RAAF Richmond in NSW to assist with the evacuation effort. Those aircraft transported urgently needed medical stores to Darwin and flew aero-medical shuttles between Bali and Darwin. The Air Force also transported two ambulances to Bali.
- One P3 Orion aircraft also deployed to transport Australian Federal Police (AFP) and additional DFAT consular staff from Canberra to Bali.
- In total there were 15 C-130 flights (including 1 Royal New Zealand Air Force flight and medical team) from Bali during the operation, with 70 casualties transported to Darwin.
- Four Air Force aircraft were further tasked to move injured personnel to southern capital cities to relieve the strain on Darwin Hospital facilities. All together 39 patients were flown to southern cities by those aircraft.
- Defence was also involved in the transportation of three severely injured Indonesian citizens from Bali to Perth. During the flight the aircraft had to be diverted to Darwin when the condition of one of the patients deteriorated. Sadly the patient passed away later at Darwin Hospital. The aircraft continued to Perth with the remaining two patients and their accompanying family members. This was the last AME task for the Air Force.
- Defence also supported the AFP in the transportation of stores and additional AFP personnel to Bali to assist in the victim identification process.

- A number of Defence personnel were deployed to Bali after the AME operations were completed to assist with the management of the bombings aftermath. These personnel included:
  - Staff to provide coordination and communication assistance to Australian consular staff and local authorities
  - Chaplains
  - Psychologists
  - Indonesian linguists
  - Forensic medical and dental staff
  - Electrical and refrigeration technicians
  - Ambulance drivers
- Other Defence personnel serving in Jakarta travelled to Bali to coordinate the evacuation of injured Australians and other foreign nationals and they were joined by several ADF personnel who were on leave in Bali at the time of the bombings and came forward to offer assistance.