

# Perspective on Australian Interagency Operations

**Colonel Mal Rerden, CSC**  
**Deputy Special Operations**  
**Commander - Australia**



**SPECIAL OPERATIONS COMMAND - AUSTRALIA**



# GOVERNANCE OF NATIONAL SECURITY

- Over \$4b committed to improving counter-terrorism capabilities since 11 September 2001
- A whole of government effort vital with wider range of agencies involved ( eg. immigration, transport, health)
- New structures created when needed - Joint Offshore Protection Command (JOPC)
- Alignment of domestic and international counter-terrorism strategies



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# KEY PRINCIPLES OF THE NATIONAL STRATEGY

- Maximum preparedness, using high quality intelligence to detect and disrupt attacks at home or abroad
- Comprehensive arrangements to protect Australia's people, infrastructure and interests
- An effective capacity to respond to minimise impact of a terrorist incident, should one occur



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# NEW NATIONAL MEASURES

- Enhanced legislative framework
- Upgrades to intelligence agencies
- Strengthened law enforcement, border, aviation and maritime transport security
- Information campaigns and advisory services
- Focused science and technology research
- Increased capacity of police, defence forces and emergency services to respond to incidents



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# NATIONAL SECURITY COMMITTEE (NSC) OF CABINET

- Focal point of decision-making on national security
- Chaired by the Prime Minister
- Senior ministers and key officials
- Supported by the Secretary's Committee on National Security (PM&C chaired)



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# NATIONAL COUNTER-TERRORISM COMMITTEE (NCTC)

- Key Australian Government agencies
- State/territory first ministers departments and police
- Key functions:
  - strategic and policy advice
  - coordinate nation-wide counter-terrorism capability
  - maintain cross-jurisdictional intelligence sharing arrangements
  - maintain National Counter-Terrorism Plan



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# INTELLIGENCE

- National Threat Assessment Centre (NTAC) established in October 03
- Increased capacity to produce threat assessments
- Cooperation between Australian Security and Intelligence Organisation (ASIO), other intelligence agencies and non-traditional agencies, such as Federal Police, Dept of Transport, Customs and others



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# DEFENCE ROLE IN COUNTER-TERRORISM

- Special Operations Command
- Additional Tactical Assault Group (TAG-E)
- Incident Response Regiment
- Reserve Response Force
- Border protection role



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# SOCOMD MISSION STATEMENT

- To provide **ready and relevant** forces to conduct special operations **across the operational continuum**, in a **joint, combined and/or interagency** environment, in support of Australia's national interests.



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# SOCOMD ORGANISATION TODAY

**Special Operations  
Headquarters  
(SOHQ)**  
(Canberra & Sydney)

**SASR**  
(Perth)

**4 RAR(Cdo)**  
(Sydney)

**1 Cdo Regt**  
(Sydney & Melb)

**IRR**  
(Sydney)

**SOCSSC**  
(Sydney)

**SFTC**  
(Singleton)

**171 Avn Sqn**  
(Townsville)



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# AUSTRALIA'S INTERNATIONAL COUNTER-TERRORISM RESPONSE

- Much of the CT effort involves activities offshore – need to align domestic and international strategies
- Australia participates in a global coalition, including initiatives to restrict the spread of WMD (eg. PSI)
- ADF engagement with regional defence forces in support of counter-terrorism:
  - counter-hijack training
  - Intelligence exchanges
- Need to tackle the problem of weak and failing regional States



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# CONCLUSION

## Cooperation versus Collaboration



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