



## **Australia-Philippines Defence Cooperation**

- Australia-Philippines Defence Cooperation has grown in the last two years, and focuses on the key areas of counter-terrorism, maritime security and assistance to the Philippines Defence Reform program.
- In 2009-10, the Defence Cooperation Program with the Philippines will be approximately AUD \$6.0 million.
- A key initiative has been maritime security assistance. In coordination with Customs and Border Protection Service, Defence has provided significant support to the Philippines' Coast Watch South initiative since 2005.
- Coast Watch South aims to coordinate activities of the Philippines' maritime security agencies, and to improve security in the Sulu and Celebes Seas.
- Around 120 Armed Forces of the Philippines personnel receive training each year in Australia, including postgraduate studies at Australian universities.
- Mobile Training Teams are also run periodically in-country each year, and provide training in diverse areas such as Command and Leadership, doctrine development, Law of Armed Conflict, aviation security, financial management and accountability, and combat medic training.
- In 2008-09 Defence gifted AUD\$229,000 worth of military equipment and resource materials to the Armed Forces of the Philippines as part of the Defence Cooperation Program.
- The Australian Defence Force conducts two annual training activities with the Armed Forces of the Philippines: Maritime Training Activity LUMBAS, which focuses on maritime security training and mariner skills enhancement; and Land Training Activity DAWN CARACHA, which focuses on Special Forces skills enhancement.
- A Status of Visiting Forces Agreement between Australia and the Philippines is before the Philippines Senate for ratification. This agreement will provide the overarching administrative arrangements for our bilateral defence relationship and lay the foundation for greater Defence cooperation in the future.