



Dear Participant

We are writing to strongly encourage you to participate in a Health Study of ADF personnel who deployed to East Timor and Bougainville.

The health of members and ex-members of the Australian Defence Force (ADF) is of great importance to both the ADF and the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA). It is vital that the ADF possesses the best deployment health information available so that it can effectively monitor, prepare for and lessen any adverse effects of operational deployments on its people.

In order to gather this sort of information, the ADF has commissioned a study of the long-term health and future well-being of ADF personnel who have taken part in recent deployments in the Near North Area of Influence and the Middle East Area of Operations. The plan is to compare the health of ADF personnel who **deployed** with the health of those who **did not deploy** to these locations. This stage of the study will focus on the effects of the deployment to East Timor and Bougainville.

You and more than 12,000 other serving and ex-serving personnel are invited to participate in this Health Study. Your support will assist the ADF in understanding the various health effects of operational deployments, now and into the future. With that knowledge, the ADF will be able to better protect the health of ADF members preparing for and undertaking future deployments. Clearly, the greater the response rate to the study survey, the more useful the results for us all.

The study will be run by the Centre for Military and Veterans' Health, part of a consortium jointly supported by Defence and DVA and led by the University of Queensland. The study is aimed at members and ex-members who took part in Operations FABER, SPITFIRE, WARDEN, TANAGER, CITADEL, SPIRE, BEL ISI I, and/or BEL ISI II and, as a **comparison group**, members who were eligible to go to East Timor and/or Bougainville but did not deploy there.

Study participants' information will be used only for the purposes of the deployment studies and will be protected under the provisions of the Privacy Act 1988. Your response will not in any way affect your current status or future prospects within the ADF, or any pension, benefits or health services you are entitled to receive from the Department of Veterans' Affairs. Serving ADF members are encouraged to complete the survey within work time.

Thank you for your consideration of this important study.

Yours sincerely

Handwritten signature of Angus Houston.

Angus Houston, AO, AFC
Air Chief Marshal
Chief of the Defence Force

14 September 2007

Handwritten signature of Bill Rolfe.

Bill Rolfe
Brigadier (Rtd)
Repatriation Commissioner

14 September 2007