

## **The Australian Deployment Health Surveillance Program in 2008**

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The Centre for Military and Veterans' Health (CMVH) has been contracted by the Australian Defence Force (ADF) Defence Health Services Division to conduct the Deployment Health Surveillance Program (DHSP). The program aims to examine the physical, emotional and environmental effects of deployment in order to better manage the health care needs of current and former veterans. The program consists of several related projects, each examining the effect of specific deployments on ADF members. Projects include deployed personnel and a comparison group of persons who were serving during the same time period, but did not deploy on the relevant Operation(s). Multiple data sources are used. The InterFET Pilot Project tested the methodology and was completed in 2006. The Solomon Islands Health Study, which completed data collection in 2007, focused on health of troops who deployed between July 2003 and December 2005. Data collection is underway for the Bougainville and East Timor Defence Deployed Health Studies. All personnel deployed on peace monitoring duties to Bougainville between 1997 and 2003 and a random sample of 4000 personnel who deployed to East Timor between 1999 and 2005 are being invited to participate, along with frequency matched comparison groups. A Middle East Area of Operations Defence Deployed Health Study, involving a prospective component, is in planning. We report on progress in recent projects, in particular response to questionnaires, use of Defence health data and population health registries.