

62

SIEV



Suspected illegal entry vessels – or SIEVs – continue to attempt entry into Australia – and the Royal Australian Navy are among those trying to keep them out.

Operation Resolute is the Australian Defence Force's contribution to the whole-of-government effort to protect Australia's borders and offshore maritime interests.

Up to 400 ADF personnel are assigned to the ongoing operation.

Typical of the vessels making their way to Australia was SIEV 62, which was intercepted by Armidale-class patrol boat HMAS Albany north-west of Ashmore Island just before Christmas.

The vessel, carrying 56 passengers including two young children, plus two crew members, was initially sighted by a RAAF P3 maritime patrol aircraft.

Under the control of Border Protection Command, HMAS Albany was directed to intercept the boat.

Members of Albany's 'Attack One' boarded the vessel, assessed its condition, coordinated the removal of all personnel from it and then readied it for destruction.

The passengers were transferred to the Christmas Island immigration detention centre for processing.

Work to increase the detention capacity on Christmas Island for 'irregular maritime arrivals' has been progressing apace and is scheduled to be complete in March, bringing the island's total capacity to 2200 beds.



*UNDER THE CONTROL OF BORDER PROTECTION COMMAND, HMAS ALBANY WAS DIRECTED TO INTERCEPT THE BOAT*

