

RESOLUTE ON ANZAC DAY

PICS LEADING SEAMAN ANDREW DAKIN

As so many Australians made their annual before-dawn drive/walk to their nearest cenotaph on 25 April, the crew of HMAS Ararat paused from normal operations to welcome their own dawn and remember all who served before them.

Commanding officer Lieutenant Commander Mark Sorby and his Assail One crew paused to reflect on Anzac Day while patrolling Australia's northern waters, conducting a brief dawn service on the quarterdeck, followed by a breakfast featuring lamingtons, before getting back to work on their Operation Resolute patrol.

The Operation Resolute area of operations covers approximately 10 per cent of the world's surface because it includes Australia's Exclusive Economic Zone, which extends up to 200 nautical miles around mainland Australia as well as around Christmas, Cocos, Keeling, Norfolk, Heard, Macquarie and Lord Howe Islands.

Op Resolute is the ADF's contribution to the whole-of-government effort to protect Australia's borders and offshore maritime interests and is the only ADF operation that currently defends homeland Australia.

The ADF contribution to Op Resolute comes under the multi-agency umbrella of Border Protection Command, currently led by Navy's Rear Admiral Tim Barrett.

At any one time, up to 400 ADF personnel at sea, in the air and on land are working to protect Australia's borders and offshore maritime interests, working alongside Customs and other agencies.

ADF resources allocated to Op Resolute include Air Force AP-3C Orions; at least seven Navy Armidale Class patrol boats; a transit-security element of 37 personnel from either Army or Air Force embarked on the patrol boats; Australian Army Regional Force Surveillance Unit patrols; and, other Navy major fleet units on standby.

Operation Resolute commenced on 17 July 2006.

