



HMAS Newcastle and Royal Jordanian Naval sailors pose for a happy snap before joint boarding-party training in Aqaba, Jordan. Pic Petty Officer Phil Cullinan



Below and right: Able Seaman Marine Technician Blake Wade is detained during training with the Royal Jordanian Navy. Pic Petty Officer Phil Cullinan



Royal Jordanian Navy sailors demonstrate techniques used to conduct a boarding on a foreign vessel. Pic Petty Officer Phil Cullinan



BOARDING PARTY PARTY PARTY

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In early September, shortly before heading for home, HMAS Newcastle crewmembers participated in boarding-party training with members of the Jordanian Navy during a port visit to the Jordanian Naval Base in Aqaba.

The facility boasts a purpose-built 'ship-in-a-box' that caters for simulated boarding party and other training scenarios. Participating members of the Jordanian Navy were delighted with the opportunity to train with the Aussies and were very keen to show off their own techniques and procedures in boarding-party operations and suspect detention.

Able Seaman Marine Technician Blake Wade was on the receiving end when he played a convincing bad guy during one demonstration.

Less than two weeks earlier, HMAS Newcastle's boarding parties were even busier on live jobs in the Middle East Area of Operations as the ship planned and conducted Focused Operation: Southern Look, an international maritime engagement operation in the Gulf of Aden.

The aim of Southern Look was to collect information used by the Combined Maritime Forces to assess the likelihood of piracy and other illegal activity in the region.

Focused Operation: Southern Look was conducted in late August off the southern coast of Yemen in the approaches between the ports of Al Mukalla and Ash Shi'hr.

The area of operation covered 349km of coastline and extended 30 nautical miles to sea.