

AUSTRALIAN DEFENCE FORCE MAJOR EXERCISES

Major exercises held in Australia

Exercise **TALISMAN SABRE** is a biennial combined training activity, designed to train Australian and US forces in planning and conducting Combined Task Force operations. The exercise aims to improve ADF/US combat readiness and interoperability, across the spectrum of military operations from conventional conflict to peacekeeping and humanitarian assistance efforts.

By working with the US military forces, the exercise strengthens proactive and responsive strategies and enhances measures to defend Australia and its national interests

Exercise TALISMAN SABRE 2011 will be conducted at designated ADF training facilities throughout Queensland, Northern Territory and in adjacent maritime areas, during 11-29 July. Key sites include the Shoalwater Bay Training Area (Central Queensland), Townsville Field Training Area, Delamere Range Facility (Northern Territory), Bradshaw Field Training Area (Northern Territory), Mount Bunday Training Area (Northern Territory), the air space over the northern part of the Northern Territory, port facilities in Queensland (Brisbane, Gladstone and Alma Ports); and adjacent waters in the Coral, Timor and Arafura Seas

Exercise **KAKADU** is a vital maritime exercise that strengthens ties with Australia's international counterparts and seeks to improve maritime interoperability. Exercise Kakadu 2010 involved naval and air assets from Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Thailand, and Japan. Royal Malaysian Navy officers participated in the exercise coordination and the exercise was observed by representatives from India, Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, France and the Republic of Korea.

Exercise KAKADU is held in the Northern Australian Exercise Area, located off the coast of Darwin and adjacent air space.

Exercise **PITCH BLACK** is the ADF's largest and most complex air combat exercise with participation by ADF and international personnel. It is held in northern Australia, with RAAF Base Darwin and RAAF Base Tindal playing key roles.

Exercise PITCH BLACK 2010 involved participants from the RAAF and Australian Army and elements of the Singapore, New Zealand and Thailand air forces. It tested participants in the tasking, planning and execution of Offensive Counter Air (OCA) and Offensive Air Support (OAS) operations in a coalition environment.

Major exercises held overseas

Exercise **BERSAMA SHIELD** is an annual Five Powers Defence Arrangement (FPDA) exercise involving Australia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore and the United Kingdom. BERSAMA SHIELD tests participants' capabilities for combined and joint operations in a multi-threat limited conflict scenario. It aims to cultivate regional ties and enhance Australia's interoperability with the defence forces of the other FPDA member countries.

BERSAMA SHIELD exercises are held in Malaysia and the South China Sea.

BERSAMA LIMA / BERSAMA PADU / SUMAN PROTECTOR is a FPDA exercise series conducted in a five year cycle. BERSAMA LIMA is held in the first, second and fourth years, BERSAMA PADU is held in the third year, and SUMAN PROTECTOR is held in the fifth year. 2011 is the fourth year of the cycle, with BERSAMA LIMA 11 scheduled for October-November 2011. It aims to cultivate regional ties and enhance Australia's interoperability with the defence forces of the other FPDA member countries.

CROIX DU SUD is a French-led biennial multilateral exercise series held in New Caledonia as part of the French regional engagement in the South Pacific region. The exercise focuses on evacuation operations and/or humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.

EQUATEUR is an associated biennial multilateral command post exercise series held in New Caledonia, in alternate years between CROIX DU SUD.

RIMPAC is a multilateral Combined and Joint exercise conducted biennially (in even numbered years to avoid conflict with TALISMAN SABRE) by US Pacific Command to improve interoperability with Pacific Rim forces in potential short warning littoral operations.

RIMPAC provides an opportunity for Australia to command a multi-national force, utilise the US Pacific Missile Range Facility off Hawaii, and enhance interoperability with regional forces.

PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP is an annual Humanitarian Civic Assistance (HCA) program sponsored by the Commander US Pacific Fleet. The deployment aims to strengthen alliances and promote multilateral security cooperation.