

Peace
Support
Operation

V2 peacekeeping

(NZDF, 2012e)

Timor Leste

The NZ Defence Force has supported various operations in Timor-Leste since 1999.

The Defence Force's current contribution of up to 80 personnel includes a light infantry group, a military observer with the United Nations Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT) and five advisors with the Falintil-Forças de Defesa de Timor-Leste (F-FDTL).

The Defence Force continues to assist the Australian-led International Stabilisation Force (ISF) to support the Timor-Leste government and security institutions, including the Falintil-Forças de Defesa de Timor-Leste (Timor-Leste Defence Force) and Policia Nacional de Timor-Leste, to maintain a stable and secure environment.

New Zealand is committed to assisting the Government of Timor-Leste. Any decisions on reducing troop numbers will be made by the NZ Government. Provided the security environment remains calm, it is likely that the drawdown of the international security presence will occur after the parliamentary elections in 2012.



AK 08-0019-16.jpg - PTE Ngahere Tumata on patrol near the Carnation Sisters orphanage on the streets of Dili.

History of peacekeeping missions to Timor Leste:

1999: The International Force East Timor (INTERFET) was an Australian-led Australian/New Zealand force deployed to East Timor in September 1999 to provide a stabilising force for the internal conflict between East and West Timor. The main tasks of the NZDF contribution were to provide border security in the New Zealand sector, helicopter support to the force, staff officers to two United Nations Headquarters and training support to the East Timor Defence Force.

2002: With independence in May 2002, the UNMISET (United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor) mission was established to provide security while also developing a law enforcement agency. It was also directed to help core administrative structures critical to political stability in the region.

The NZ Battalion Group returned to NZ in November 2002, with three personnel remaining as military observers and one military assistant. New Zealand also contributed a 22-strong Small Arms Training Team (NZSATT) to assist the developing Portuguese-sponsored Falantil Force Defence Timor Leste (F-FDTL).

2005: With UNMISET closing at the end of May 2005 after successfully completing its mandate, the United Nations Security Council established the United Nations Office in Timor Leste (UNOTIL), a one-year mission to ensure the foundations for a stable country are continued to be built upon. The two NZ UN Military Observer roles also came to an end. As part of UNOTIL NZ Defence Force

3rd

personnel deployed to Timor Leste as Military Training Advisors.

On June 13, 2005 Australia began the withdrawal of its last peacekeeping troops from Timor Leste.

2006: On 25 August 2006, UN Security Council established a new expanded UN Mission in Timor Leste for a initial period of six months - the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor Leste (UNMIT). Expressing its concern over the still fragile security, political and humanitarian situation in Timor Leste. UNMIT remains an active mission today.

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