

AFP missions and operations in Timor-Leste

United Nations Mission in East Timor (UNAMET)

June–September 1999. AFP deployed to assist with the conduct of the ‘popular consultation’ held on 30 August.

Achievement: Contributed to the success of the Timor-Leste election, which ultimately led to the independence of the then East Timor from Indonesia.

International Force East Timor (INTERFET)

September 1999–March 2000. Nine AFP members were deployed September 1999 to the end of October 1999.

Achievement: Assisted in the initial restoration of law and order, investigations into crimes committed during the post ballot violence and the commencement of UNTAET.

United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET)

October 1999–May 2002. An interim civil administration and peacekeeping mission until Timor-Leste achieved independence in 2002.

Achievement: Policing activities and the initial creation of the East Timor Police Service, later renamed Policia Nacional de Timor-Leste (PNTL).

United Nations Mission of Support in East Timor (UNMISSET)

May 2002–May 2005. A redesigned mission where operational responsibilities were transitioned to the Timor-Leste authorities. AFP members focused on capacity building of the PNTL.

Achievement: Capacity development activities and gradual handover to the PNTL, after which the UN transitioned to advisor status.

United Nations Office in East Timor (UNOTIL)

May 2005–May 2006. A one year political mission, effectively downsizing from UNMISSET,

aimed at completing UN involvement in Timor-Leste. AFP members contributed as specialist policing advisors to the mission.

Achievement: Successfully contributed to ongoing UN assistance in Timor-Leste.

Operation Serene

May 2006–December 2006. About 50 AFP members deployed at the invitation of the Timor-Leste Government to assist the Australian Defence Force with restoring law and order after the dismissal of 600 Timor-Leste soldiers.

Achievement: Assisted in the restoration of law and order in Dili.

United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT)

September 2006–December 2012. A revitalised UN mission resuming full operational responsibilities for maintaining security. The mission gradually transitioned back to capacity development.

Achievement: Contributed to UN law and order and policing functions, redevelopment of the PNTL and ongoing capacity development activities until current end of mission on 31 December, 2012.

Operation Comity

February 2008–April 2008. AFP members deployed following assassination attempts on President Jose Ramos-Horta and Prime Minister Xanana Gusmao.

Achievement: Provided assistance to PNTL operations.

Timor Leste Police Development Program

While not a UN mission, AFP members have staffed the TLPDP since July 2004 (suspended for a few months during 2006 unrest).