

PEACEKEEPING FORCE

UNTAET's Peacekeeping Force (PKF) maintains security in East Timor and renders humanitarian assistance to the people of East Timor. PKF's mission, in conjunction with other UNTAET agencies and in accordance with UN Resolutions, is to maintain a stable secure environment in order to facilitate an effective transition to an independent East Timor.

Mandate

The mission of the Peacekeeping Force and the United Nations Military Observer Group (UNMOG) is to help maintain a secure environment in East Timor in accordance with United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1272 and 1338; to assist UNTAET in the conduct of safe and democratic elections; and to assist the East Timor Transitional Administration, within its capabilities, in the development of sustainable East Timorese organizations and infrastructure.

Force Commander

Lieutenant General Winai Phattiyakul (Thailand)

Troop Contributing Nations and Force Structure

Australia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Chile, Denmark, Egypt, Fiji, Ireland, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of Korea, Pakistan, Philippines, Portugal, Singapore, Slovakia and Thailand.

The UNTAET Peacekeeping Force is currently in the process of downsizing its strength to 5,000 soldiers by East Timor's independence (20 May 2002). The force now consists of around 6,200 personnel from 20 nations. There were 8,000 troops from 22 nations in October 2001 before the Kenyan and Jordanian battalions left the mission in December 2001 and January 2002 respectively. A Japanese engineering battalion of about 700 soldiers joined the mission in March and early April 2002. They replaced the Bangladesh and Pakistan engineer battalions.

Major units are based around national elements

- **Battalion Level:** Republic of Korea, Thailand, Portugal, Australia, New Zealand
- **Battalion Sub-units:** Fiji, Nepal, Ireland, Singapore
- **Other Support Units**
 - Force Communications – Pakistan
 - Force Engineers – Japan
 - Force Logistics – Australia
 - Force HQ Support Unit – Philippines
 - Movement Control – Australia
 - Maritime transport – Australia (2 x Landing Craft Medium LCM-8)
 - Air transport – Australia, Chile New Zealand and Portugal
 - Provost Marshall (Military Police) – Brazil and Philippines
 - UN Military Hospital – Australia (Dili) and Slovakia field team (Suai)
 - Military Interpreters – Malaysia



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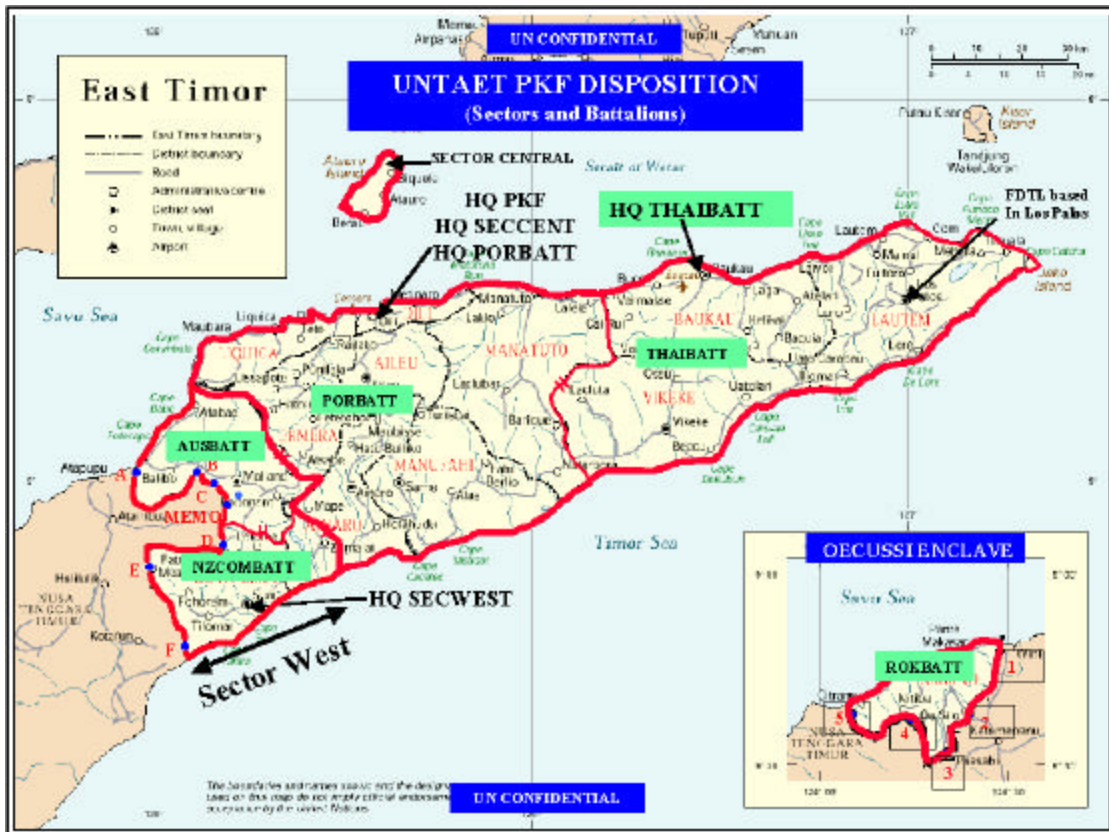
By UNTAET Press Office

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Junction Points

Junction Points are manned on both sides of East Timor's border by the TNI (Indonesian Army) and the Peacekeeping Force. They are the "gate-ways" for refugees to return to East Timor. There are seven Junction Points on the Western border and five on the border of the Oecussi enclave.

Peacekeeping Force Disposition



Sector East

The Thai Battalion (THAIBATT) Headquarters is in Baucau. The Battalion is responsible for ensuring security in Baucau, Viqueque and Lautem districts.

Thai troops were among the first deployed to East Timor with INTERFET (International Force in East Timor) in October 1999 and transitioned into the UNTAET Peacekeeping Force in February 2000.



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Sector Central

Sector Central Headquarters is in Dili. The Portuguese Battalion (PORBATT) and a Brazilian Military Police Unit are the major elements under Sector Central command.

The PORBATT Headquarters is in Becora, Dili. The areas of responsibility of the Portuguese battalion are Dili, Liquica, Aileu, Ainaro, Manufahi, Ermera (following the departure of the Kenyan Battalion) and Manatuto district (following the departure of the Philippine Battalion).

The troops from Sector Central focus their efforts on retaining the confidence of the population through the provision and maintenance of a secure environment and fostering self-reliance.

Sector West

Sector West Headquarters is in Suai district. The Australian Battalion (AUSBATT) and New Zealand Battalion (NZBATT) are the major units serving under Sector West command.

Within the New Zealand Battalion are troops from Fiji (Company), Ireland (Platoon) Nepal (Company) and Singapore (Platoon). These operate as nationally structured sub-units.

The Australian Battalion Headquarters is based in Moleana. The Australian contribution to the peacekeeping operation in East Timor has continued since the INTERFET period.

Oecussi

The Republic of Korean Battalion (ROKBATT) is responsible for maintaining security in the Oecussi enclave after taking over from the Jordanian peacekeepers on 13 January 2002. The battalion Headquarters is located at Pante Macassar. Twenty Malaysian military interpreters assist ROKBATT in the enclave in order to assist and facilitate the coordination between PKF and Indonesian forces (TNI) along the border.

Operations

The PKF conducts active security operations throughout East Timor. Operations vary from vehicle patrols and checkpoints through to foot and mounted vehicle patrols throughout the territory and along the tactical coordination line between East and West Timor. The PKF has plans in place to deal with any military contingency and will respond quickly and robustly to any threat to security, now and throughout the independence period.

The PKF will monitor any major breach of security and provide assistance to other UN agencies when appropriate. Civil disturbance is a law and order issue and is the



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responsibility of the United Nations Police and PKF will support the UN Police when requested.

Civil Military Affairs

Despite normal PKF operations, the PKF renders humanitarian assistance to the people of East Timor through a comprehensive Civil Military Affairs (CMA) structure. The PKF CMA involves various community activities with East Timorese and other UN Agencies like UNHCR, IOM and District Administrations. PKF CMA activities include:

- Assisting the movement of returnees from West Timor to East Timor.
- Distribution of educational materials to schoolchildren.
- Provision of First Aid and Language instruction.
- Instruction on improved agricultural and handicraft techniques including the construction of a demonstration village by the Thai Battalion.
- Provision of medical assistance to East Timorese in regular clinics conducted by PKF units.
- Improvement and maintenance of infrastructure – such as bridges, roads and river embankments – by PKF engineers.
- Rebuilding assistance for schools and other public facilities i.e. water wells and power stations.
- Tae Kwon Do instruction for East Timorese youth and East Timor Defense Force personnel by ROKBATT.
- Security Support for Presidential election (14 April)

The PKF seeks to interact positively with the East Timorese people at all times. By maintaining this ‘partnership with the people’ the PKF is better positioned to maintain a safe and secure environment.

