



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Defence**

Wednesday, 18 November 2009

## **NATIONAL WELCOME HOME PARADE TO MARK THE END OF OPERATION CATALYST**

- What:** National welcome home parade to mark the end of Operation CATALYST
- Where:** Parade Ground Australian War Memorial Treloar Crescent, Campbell ACT
- When:** 2 pm Saturday 21 November 2009.
- Who:** More than 300 current and former ADF veterans and Defence civilians who have served on Operation CATALYST in Iraq from July 2003 to July 2009.

The welcome home parade will mark the conclusion of Operation CATALYST and will recognise the contribution of ADF and Defence personnel to the stabilization and rehabilitation of Iraq.

The parade will feature Australia's Federation Guard, the Band of the Royal Military College of Australia and the Royal Australian Navy Band, marching from Anzac Parade onto the Memorial's Parade Ground. They will be followed by Navy, Army and Air Force contingents, Defence civilians and ex-ADF members in a march-past.

There will be an F/A-18 flypast, and equipment used in Iraq during Operation CATALYST will be on display. These will include an Explosive Detection Dog (just like Sabi who was recently found after going missing in Afghanistan 14 months ago), a Rigid Hulled Inflatable Boat, a Seahawk helicopter, Bushmaster and ASLAV armoured vehicles, and an Army communications suite.

Parking will be available at Russell Offices, and shuttle buses will loop from Russell Drive to Treloar Crescent behind the Australian War Memorial. The first bus depart Russell Drive 1 pm and the last will leave the Australian War Memorial at 4 pm.

If you would like to attend the parade as a spectator you can register your interest via email to [defence.parade@defence.gov.au](mailto:defence.parade@defence.gov.au)

This is an outdoor event, so please bring water, hats and sun block, and wear suitable clothing for the weather conditions on the day.



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### **The ADF in Iraq**

More than 20,000 ADF personnel have seen service in Iraq as part of Operation CATALYST between 2003 – 2009.

Operation CATALYST was the ADF's contribution to the US-led Multinational Force effort to develop a secure and stable environment in Iraq and to assist national recovery programs.

Australian forces first deployed to Iraq in 2003. Servicemen and women from all three services were deployed in a range of combat and combat support roles. This role then developed into a security and training role to enable the people of Iraq to take responsibility for their own security.

Defence formally concluded its military commitment to the rehabilitation of Iraq on 31 July 2009.

### **Further information:**

Defence Coordination Centre

02 6265 4530