



AUSTRALIAN PEACEKEEPER & PEACEMAKER  
VETERANS' ASSOCIATION  
NATIONAL EXECUTIVE  
P.O. BOX 552, TORQUAY, VIC, 3228

(INCORPORATED IN VICTORIA)

ABN 59 558 194 094

Patron  
Major General John Pearn AM, KStJ,  
RFD (Ret'd)

## MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday, 13 March 2007

### INSTABILITY RAISES CALL TO CHANGE SERVICE CONDITIONS

The deteriorating security situation in East Timor has prompted calls for the Government to review the non-warlike service conditions applying to Australian Defence Force personnel currently deployed to the troubled country.

National President of the Australian Peace Keeper and Peace Maker Veterans' Association, Paul Copeland, said the current security situation and the intense operation to capture rebel leader, Alfredo Reinado, indicated the situation was anything but non-warlike.

"If media reports are to be believed, the ADF doesn't re-deploy members of the SAS into a non-warlike environment," Mr Copeland said

"Reports of exchanges of fire around Reinado's stronghold is very much a war-like situation with Blackhawk helicopters and armoured personnel carriers being used in the assault."

When Australian Defence personnel re-deployed to East Timor last year, Defence Minister, Brendan Nelson, flew to Dili to tell the troops that their conditions of service were being classified as non-warlike.

This pays lesser levels of allowances than ADF members in Iraq and Afghanistan are receiving. Those deployed to East Timor also received an Australian Service Medal as opposed to the Australian Active Service Medal and the Army Combat Badge.

"Also should they be injured or wounded as a result of this conflict, ADF personnel will be entitled to a very different level of benefits under Veterans Affairs," Mr Copeland said.

"The APPVA urges Minister Nelson and the Defence chiefs to immediately review this application of non-warlike service as the security situation in Timor deteriorates."

**CONTACT: National President Paul Copeland Mobile: 0419 355 226**

*"Looking After Our Own"*