



DEFENCE MEDIA ALERT

CPA - NSW 029/07

Friday, 2 March 2007

NORFOLK ISLAND WELCOMES HMAS *SIRIUS*

- What:** The ship's company of HMAS *Sirius* will parade through the streets of Norfolk Island seeking the right of 'Freedom of Entry'.
- When:** 10.30am on Saturday, 3 March 2007.
- Where:** Bicentennial Complex, Taylors Road, Burnt Pine, Norfolk Island.
- Who:** The parade will be led by the Commanding Officer of HMAS *Sirius*, Commander Tim Crawford. The salute will be taken by Deputy Commander Australian Fleet, Commodore Ray Griggs, the Administrator of Norfolk Island, the Hon Grant Tambling and the Chief Minister of Norfolk Island, Hon David Buffett AM. The Royal Australian Navy Band will play in support of the ceremony.
- Why:** The right of 'Freedom of Entry' dates back to medieval times and signifies mutual trust between a city or community and a military unit. Sailors and officers will observe a tradition that affords them the right to march through the streets with 'swords drawn, drums beating, band playing and colours flying'.

Members of the media and the public are invited to attend the parade. There will be an opportunity to interview CMDR Crawford afterwards at the RSL Club on Taylors Road.

Background:

Afloat Support Vessel HMAS *Sirius* was commissioned into the Royal Australian Navy on 16 September 2006. *Sirius* was built by Hyundai Shipyard, South Korea and converted to naval specifications at Henderson, WA.

Sirius is the first ship of the RAN to bear the name. She was named after the first fleet supply vessel HMS *Sirius* that provided logistical support to the new colony of Australia from 1788-90 before she sank off Norfolk Island on 19 March 1790.

Media Contact:

Kristina Kalnins Defence Public Affairs – NSW +61 2 9359 2785 or 0411 203 579

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Building 43, Garden Island, POTTS POINT NSW 2011
Phone: 02 9359 2786, Fax: 02 9359 2790
