

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES – 26 – 27 MAY 2014

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE14/048) PROGRAMME – Australian Customs and Border Protection Service

Senator Conroy (L&CA 118) asked:

Senator CONROY: How many rotations of Customs and ADF personnel have been through OSB since the election?

Mr Pezzullo: It slightly varies. In the ADF, postings to ADF assets, particularly Royal Australian Navy warships, which I think is part comprehended, I would have to take advice and see what we and Defence can jointly provide. In terms of my staff in the Customs and Border Protection Service, staff are posted to a vessel. They do not rotate in and out, they do patrols—they are on duty and then they go off duty for extended periods of time to allow them to rest and recuperate. I just do not know how many evolutions have been undertaken since OSB commenced in September.

Senator CONROY: Can you take it on notice?

Mr Pezzullo: Yes.

Answer:

Border Protection Command is responsible for coordinating and controlling operations to protect Australia's national interests against eight maritime security threats, one of which is illegal maritime arrivals. Between 18 September 2013 and 31 May 2014 Australian Customs and Border Protection Service maritime assets commenced ninety patrols in support of BPC.

Australian Customs and Border Protection Service is unable to provide details of Australian Defence Force assets.