

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AND CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS  
AUSTRALIAN CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION SERVICE

**Question No. 80**

**Senator Barnett asked the following question at the hearing on 8 February 2010:**

Regarding ACBPS crew on board the *Oceanic Viking* during the October incident:

- a. How many ACBPS crew were on board the *Oceanic Viking* during this incident?
- b. What kind of training had they received for dealing with this kind of situation?
- c. What weapons were available to the crew on board the *Oceanic Viking*?
- d. Did they receive any additional equipment for dealing with the situation?
- e. Were staff aware of any items being thrown on board to the asylum seekers other than a mobile phone?
- f. At what point was there a crew change?

**The answer to the honourable senator's question is as follows:**

a. The *Oceanic Viking* began its patrol with 20 Customs and Border Protection Marine Enforcement Officers (MEOs) on board. A phased changeover of MEOs was conducted over the period 31 October 2009 to 3 November 2009, with total Customs and Border Protection crew numbers becoming:

- on 31 October – 24 crew (7 MEOs departed vessel, 13 MEOs remained onboard and 11 new MEOs joined the vessel);
- on 2 November – 16 crew (13 MEOs departed vessel, 11 new MEOs remained onboard and 5 new MEOs joined the vessel); and
- on 3 November – 27 crew (11 new MEOs joined the vessel).

b. MEOs receive operational safety training.

c. MEOs' personal defensive equipment consists of:

- one Glock 17 firearm;
- one ASP F21E, 21 inch extendable baton;
- one Mk3 operations Oleoresin Capsicum Spray; and
- handcuffs.

There are also 18 ballistic vests on board.

d. They did not receive any additional equipment for dealing with the situation.

e. No.

f. Refer to answer provided above at a.