



DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

1010 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1010



OCT 2 2001

The Honorable Bob Stump
Chairman, Committee on Armed Services
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

On March 1, 2000, the former Secretary of Defense, Mr. Cohen, notified the Congress that he had designated the U.S. participation in and support of Operation Stabilise (International Force East Timor) as a section 127a operation. Once an operation has been designated as a section 127a operation, a report is to be submitted to the Congress that addresses specified matters relating to the operation. Enclosed is the required report.

A similar letter is being sent to the President of the Senate, Speaker of the House, and the Chairmen and Ranking Members of the other Defense Oversight Committees.

Sincerely,

Enclosure

cc: The Honorable Ike Skelton
Ranking Member

**U.S. Participation in and Support of Operation STABILISE
Required by Section 127a of Title 10 U.S.C.**

1. Background

In response to a deteriorating security situation of violence and intimidation by armed militias against East Timorese civilians, on September 15, 1999, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 1264, which authorized the formation of a multinational peacekeeping force that became known as International Force East Timor (INTERFET). On March 1, 2000, the Secretary of Defense designated U.S. participation in and support of Operation Stabilise (the operational name for INTERFET) as a section 127a operation. The following fulfills the statutory reporting requirements of section 127a of Title 10, United States Code.

2. Objectives of the Operation

The military objectives of INTERFET, which was led by Australia, were to restore peace and security in East Timor; to protect and support the UN Mission in East Timor in carrying out its tasks; and, within force capabilities, to facilitate humanitarian assistance operations. The U.S. military contributions to INTERFET focused on unique capabilities that enhanced the effectiveness of the multinational force such as communications, intelligence, logistics support including strategic lift, and planning support.

3. Estimated Duration of Operation

The U.S. military participated in Operation Stabilise from September 15, 1999, to February 23, 2000, when INTERFET was formally relieved by the UN peacekeeping force under the UN Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET)*.

4. Exit Criteria for Withdrawal of the Armed Forces from Operation Stabilise

Operation Stabilise was a short-term operation designed to restore quickly peace and stability in East Timor until a UN peacekeeping force could assume security responsibilities in East Timor.

During the execution of Operation Stabilise, the presence of U.S. personnel in East Timor was gradually reduced as unique U.S. capabilities were replaced by either commercial contracts or other multinational forces.

On February 23, 2000, UNTAET's peacekeeping force relieved INTERFET and assumed responsibility for security in East Timor in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1272.

* NOTE: Separate from Operation STABILISE, DoD deployed the U.S. Support Group East Timor (USGET) to East Timor and Darwin, Australia in February 2000. The USGET worked to facilitate and coordinate U.S. military rotational presence activities, including periodic ship visits, that provide engineering, medical, dental, and other Humanitarian and Civic Assistance to the East Timorese people, in support of East Timor's transition to independence. The USGET and the rotational presence activities remain under U.S. command and control and are not part of UNTAET. Separately, DoD currently contributes three U.S. military officers who are serving as Military Observers with UNTAET. A United States Marine Corps Reserve Judge Advocate officer worked with UNTAET's Judicial Affairs Division from June 17, 2000 through July 19, 2000.

5. Estimated Incremental Department of Defense (DoD) Cost of Operation Stabilise

The following table identifies by Component the incremental costs for DoD's participation in Operation Stabilise through February 23, 2000.

DoD Costs in Support of Operation Stabilise

(In Dollars)

<u>Component</u>	<u>FY 1999</u>	<u>FY 2000</u>	<u>Total</u>
Army	104,100	16,269,000	16,373,100
Navy	347,000	21,031,000	21,378,000
Marine Corps	-	1,414,000	1,414,000
Air Force	154,000	17,881,000	18,035,000
U.S. Special Operations Command	-	168,000	168,000
Other *	-	78,000	78,000
Total	605,100	56,841,000	57,446,100

* Other includes: American Forces Information Service and National Imagery and Mapping Agency

6. Financing Strategy

On February 7, 2000, the President requested a supplemental appropriation totaling \$25 million to the DoD Overseas Contingency Operation Transfer Fund (OCOTF) appropriation. This supplemental request funded the initial Operation Stabilise costs incurred by DoD during October 1999 (FY 2000). Additional costs were subsequently incurred by DoD as a result of continued U.S. military involvement in support of Operation Stabilise. In the Emergency Supplemental Act, 2000 (P.L. 106-246), the Congress provided additional funding to finance the costs incurred by the Military Components in the conduct of Operation Stabilise.

7. Justification for using Department of Defense Resources rather than those of Another Federal Agency

At the direction of the President, DoD expended resources to participate in and provide support to Operation Stabilise. The DoD was the appropriate agency to provide this support -- consisting largely of transportation and other logistics support, military communications assistance, intelligence, and military expertise in civil affairs -- because no other federal agency has the capabilities, forces, or legal authority to conduct military operations. As part of Operation Stabilise, DoD also provided support to transport forces of other nations participating in INTERFET and to transport and provide humanitarian assistance supplies to and within East Timor. Because DoD possessed capabilities allowing it to respond quickly to the immediate crisis, it was the federal agency best able to provide the required support. Consequently, on September 21, 1999, the President exercised his authority under section 506(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 and directed DoD to provide up to \$55 million of military assistance to support other countries' efforts and to enhance their capabilities to restore peace and security to East Timor.