

## MARCH 2005

### Operation *Sumatra Assist*: 817 Squadron

ADF personnel assisted Indonesian Government authorities as part of the Australian Government's program of humanitarian relief following the Boxing Day 2004 tsunami. The ADF worked in Indonesia's North Sumatra and Aceh Provinces from 28 December 2004. Relief assistance provided by Australia was part of a co-operative effort involving the ADF, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (AusAID) and Emergency Management Australia. Water, tents, medical supplies, blankets, and other emergency provisions, and logistical support were provided. In the tsunami-devastated provincial capital of Banda Aceh, the ADF set up a water purification plant and established an Anzac Field Hospital, operated jointly by medical personnel of the ADF and the New Zealand Defence Force. HMAS *Kanimbla* delivered a detachment of Australian Army Engineers on 13 January and took up station as a floating support and logistics base for relief and reconstruction work with its Sea Kings providing daily movement of stores, people and equipment ashore.

A stores party from HMAS *Kanimbla* brings in supplies flown over from an American ship during Operation *Sumatra Assist*.

