



## **AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY PHNOM PENH**

24 July 2017

### **AUSTRALIA'S VICE CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE FORCE TO VISIT CAMBODIA**

The Vice Chief of the Australian Defence Force, Vice Admiral Ray Griggs, will visit Cambodia on 25-26 July 2017.

“Australia has a longstanding and strong history of engagement in Cambodia,” Australian Ambassador Angela Corcoran said.

“We are working with Cambodia and other countries to ensure our region is safe, secure and prosperous. Australia’s defence cooperation program in Cambodia is part of this commitment,” the Ambassador said.

The visit by Vice Admiral Griggs will allow him to see firsthand the positive contribution Australia’s defence partnership with Cambodia is making. It is also an important opportunity to take forward our defence cooperation program.

An important element of our defence cooperation program is the provision of English language training to young members of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces. Vice Admiral Griggs will visit the College of Social Sciences and Languages at the National Defense University, where Australia is providing this language training.

Vice Admiral Griggs will meet with Secretary of State HE General Neang Phat and Deputy Commander in Chief of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces HE Admiral Ung Samkhan. He will also meet HE Lieutenant General Hun Manet at the National Counter Terrorism Special Forces Headquarters.

Australia’s defence cooperation program in Cambodia is also helping to address key regional strategic challenges. Australia is committed to combating terrorism, and our joint counter-terrorism exercises with Cambodia is part of this. Our support for the National Committee for Maritime Security and Ream Naval Base will also help ensure Cambodia has the right tools and expertise to contribute to regional maritime security efforts.

Vice Admiral Griggs’s visit to Cambodia forms a part of his wider travel to the region, including visits to Thailand, Vietnam, Malaysia and Brunei Darussalam, in which he will discuss Australia’s enduring cooperation with regional military forces.

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