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Defence 2020

Participation Task

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The Question is –

Are Australia's Peacekeepers Responsible Citizens?



Who are Peacekeepers? What is their role?

Peacekeepers are a vital part of our Defence Force. After first being established by the United Nations in 1948, they have been on approximately 64 operations around the world. These missions involve everything from developing and maintaining security for a town, village or city, re-establishing water and food sources or even just playing sports or organising functions with the locals, boosting morale.



http://mm.afl.com.au/Portals%5C0%5C150%5Cgalleries%5Ckaad-adf%5C20080807adf8143085_135.jpg

Where Are They Based?

After the establishment of 'peacekeeping', many countries that are a part of the U.N. started developing peacekeeping forces of their own and so now they are based all across the world. Here in Australia, our peacekeepers are very widespread, with members in the Navy, Army and Air Force.



<http://www.cfr.org/content/publications/images/Italian-Peacekeepers-Lebano.jpg>

Does Peacekeeping Really Work?



http://newsimg.bbc.co.uk/media/images/42039000/jpg/42039728_08_ghana_ap.jpg

What are the Negative Consequences of Peacekeeping?

There are some arguments against peacekeeping:

- Why should we send our soldiers to disrupt the lives of other countries?
- Are we just causing more violence and destruction? *The locals sometimes see foreign peacekeepers to be merely there for military conquest and this can fuel much violence within the areas that we have gone to 'save.'*
- Are we making the countries we assist too dependant on aid?
- Do foreign peacekeepers show sufficient respect for the culture?
- Are we 'westernising' the countries we assist too much?

Does Peacekeeping Really Work?

What are the Positive Consequences of Peacekeeping?

What would happen if our peacekeepers abandoned suffering, struggling countries?

- The local population would be at much greater risk, and in the long term even Australia could be threatened.
- As a wealthy, successful, developed nation surely we have an obligation to show compassion and kindness to those nations in need, for one day might we might need them in return?
- We pride ourselves on being a multi-cultural nation – our peacekeepers may bring home a greater acceptance of others and even new ideas learned from other cultures during their peacekeeping missions, making our own society a better place.



<http://www.airforce.gov.au/history/images/peacekeeping/peace7.jpg>

So Are Australia's Peacekeepers Responsible Citizens?

- Australian peacekeepers often put their own lives at risk to ensure the safety and wellbeing of others.
- Australian peacekeepers have to leave their own family and friends behind, and miss important events like births and marriages, to willingly fulfil their duties.
- Australian peacekeepers show kindness and compassion in addition to courage and bravery.



[http://pix.motivatedphotos.com/
2009/2/19/633706735518330110-
peacekeepers.jpg](http://pix.motivatedphotos.com/2009/2/19/633706735518330110-peacekeepers.jpg)

So, could you tell me that our Australian Peacekeepers are NOT responsible? I don't think so.

So I'd be proud to be an Australian
Peacekeeper!



[https://console.clubsonline.com.au/
news/images/thumbnail/PKbear1.gif](https://console.clubsonline.com.au/news/images/thumbnail/PKbear1.gif)