

Sailors in island bar rampage

- Frank Thorne in Sydney
- Thursday 10 January 2002 01:00

Drunken sailors from an Australian navy warship are facing criminal charges after an investigation uncovered antics including allegations of sexual assaults, indecent exposure and nude bathing.

A report by military police found evidence of widespread misconduct, including a video tape of improper conduct by crew from HMAS Arunta on Christmas Island. It also showed an indecent bar-room assault.

The catalogue of incidents stemmed from a night in the Golden Bosun Tavern on Christmas Island, off the coast of Western Australia.

Sailors, including several senior ranks, are said to have drunk heavily, groped female colleagues and dropped their underwear. The antics happened on 2 December after crew had spent three months on duty to intercept illegal boat people.

Signed statements have been taken about the incidents which occurred after the Arunta had intercepted the freighter MV Tampa with its cargo of illegal asylum seekers at the height of the boat people crisis off Christmas Island. To date no one has been suspended or charged over the incidents.

The police report, which was leaked to a Sydney daily newspaper, states that the independent team of investigators were "shocked" by an apparent attempt by the navy to cover up the scandal.

The inquiry by SIB, the military's Special Investigations Branch, found that a young female crew member was groped by two sailors. As she fought back, the female sailor punched one colleague in the head, breaking her hand and wrist.

A second female Arunta crew member was "touched inappropriately" by several naval personnel.

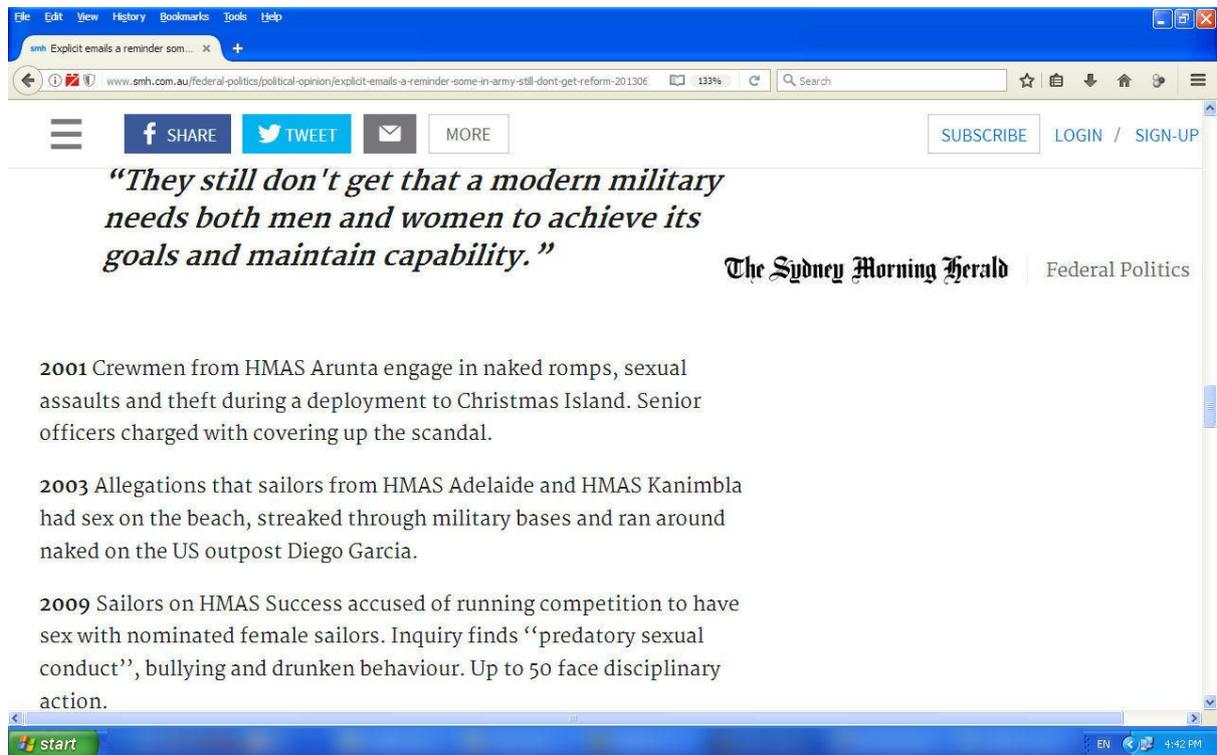
In another incident, Arunta crew members broke into a community swimming pool on the island and enjoyed a nude swim.

An Australian defence navy spokesman confirmed an inquiry is being held into incidents involving crew members of HMAS Arunta.

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Source: <https://www.standard.co.uk/news/sailors-in-island-bar-rampage-6304386.html>



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Ray Griggs (admiral)

Raymond James Griggs



Nickname	Ray
Born	1961 (age 56–57)
Place of birth	Homebush , New South Wales
Allegiance	 Australia
Service/branch	 Royal Australian Navy
Years of service	1978–Present
Rank	 Vice Admiral
Commands held	Chief of Navy Deputy Chief of Joint Operations Deputy Head, Strategic Reform and Governance Commander, Australian Amphibious Task Group HMAS Arunta
Battles/wars	War in Afghanistan
Awards	Officer of the Order of Australia Conspicuous Service Cross Commendation for Distinguished Service Navy Meritorious Service Star (Indonesia) Commander of the Legion of Merit (United States)

Vice Admiral Raymond James "Ray" Griggs AO, CSC, RAN (born 1961) is a senior officer in the **Royal Australian Navy** and has been the **Chief of Navy** (CN) since 7 June 2011.^[1]

Early years

Ray Griggs was born in **Homebush, New South Wales** in 1961.^[1]

Early career

Griggs joined the Adelaide Port Division of the **Royal Australian Navy Reserve** in 1978 as a radio operator.^[1] He entered the **Royal Australian Naval College** at **HMAS Creswell** on a "short service

commission" in 1979. In his early years, Griggs served on the aircraft carrier HMAS *Melbourne* and HMA ships *Yarra* and *Advance*. He then spent 12 months with the **Royal Navy** on HMS *Jersey* where he gained his Bridge Watchkeeping Certificate. In late 1981 he was posted to HMAS *Perth* as a Bridge Watchkeeper and deployed to the North West Indian Ocean.^[1]

Promoted to Lieutenant, from 1983 to 1994 he completed a series of postings as Navigating Officer of HMA Ships *Cessnock*, *Torrens*, *Tobruk*, *Jervis Bay* and *Perth*. Other roles included: aide-de-camp to His Excellency the Governor of Tasmania, Sir **James Plimsoll**; two postings in the Navy's officer career management directorate; Staff Officer (Navigation) to the Commander Australian Patrol Boat Forces; and at Australian Defence Headquarters in Canberra, Deputy Director Military Strategy as Lieutenant Commander, and Director Future Warfare as Captain.^[1]

Command career

From 1995 to 1997 he served as commissioning Executive Officer of HMAS *Anzac*, helping to bring the **Anzac class frigates** into service.^[1] In **October 2001 he assumed command of the ANZAC class frigate HMAS *Arunta*** and was immediately involved in border protection duties as part of Operation RELEX. *Arunta* then deployed to the Persian Gulf to enforce United Nations sanctions against Iraq and in support of "The War on Terror". The ship was recognized for her efforts by being awarded the **Duke of Gloucester Cup** for being the most operationally efficient ship in the RAN fleet for 2002.^[1] In 2003 he was posted as the ANZAC class Capability Element Manager in **Rockingham, Western Australia**. In 2004 he studied at the **National War College** in Washington D.C., prior to assuming command of the Australian Amphibious Task Group in mid-2005.^[1]

He was promoted to Commodore in February 2006 and appointed as the Deputy Maritime (Fleet) Commander until assuming the position of Director General Navy Strategic Policy and Futures in Navy Headquarters in September 2007. In February 2008 he was seconded to the Defence White Paper team where he led the development of the Force Structure Review that provided the force structure underpinning the 2009 White Paper.^[1] In early 2009 he attended the UK **Higher Command and Staff Course** and was subsequently promoted to Rear Admiral and appointed as Deputy Head Strategic Reform and Governance.^[1] In May 2010 he was posted as Deputy **Chief of Joint Operations**.^[1]

Source: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ray_Griggs