DARWIN’S SOLDIERS WELCOMED HOME

Chief Minister Paul Henderson paid tribute to the thousands of Territory soldiers who have served in Iraq since 2003 as Darwin welcomed home about 400 soldiers from their tour of duty.

The soldiers, from the Overwatch Battle Group (West) 4 and the Australian Army Training Team - Iraq IX, marched through Darwin City this morning to mark the end of their service in Iraq.

“On behalf of Territorians I thank our Territory soldiers and their families for the sacrifice they have made to serve in Iraq,” Mr Henderson said.

“About 13 600 Defence personnel and their families are stationed in the Territory and are valuable members of the Territory community – in our schools, sporting clubs, workplaces and social networks.

“About 2000 soldiers from Robertson Barracks have served in Iraq since 2003, spending on average six months away from their families on each posting.

“As Territorians, we know the difficult job Defence personnel do, and the support their families give them.

“I know we are pleased to welcome home safely our Defence personnel and pay tribute to the role they have played in rebuilding Iraq.”

Contact: Rebecca Cass 0401 110 389