FAMILY AND FRIENDS FAREWELL TROOPS

September 25th, 2012

Chief Minister Terry Mills today attended a special parade to farewell Australian troops headed to Afghanistan.

Mr Mills said around 450 Darwin based troops were farewelled at the ceremony at Robertson Barracks.

“Today was an opportunity for friends and family to formally farewell their loved ones and for the wider Darwin community to show their support to our troops,” Mr Mills said.

“The Darwin based Australian Task Force 12 will be deployed shortly on Operation SLIPPER, which is Australia’s military contribution to the international campaign against terrorism and maritime security in the Middle East.

“This deployment will be the first time Australian soldiers will command the headquarters of the combined team in the Uruzgan Province in Afghanistan, taking over from the United States.

“This will be a tremendous achievement and I commend our soldiers for their bravery and wish them the best of luck on their latest mission.”

The first deployment of members of Australian Taskforce 12 will leave Darwin today with the remainder departing next week.

They will be in be stationed in Afghanistan for between six and 12 months.

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