



Military English

Lesson: On Patrol – NORFORCE: Eyes and Ears in the North – Reading

Overview:

This lesson is about NORFORCE and how it conducts patrols in the northern and central regions of Australia.

In this lesson, you will:

- ✓ read a text for main ideas.
- ✓ find specific information in a text.

Prepare for Reading

1) NORFORCE are a special part of the Australian Armed Forces.

- a. What are they doing in the pictures?
- b. What do you think NORFORCE does?
- c. What do you think makes this job special?



2) There are some words we need for today's reading in the box. Match them with the pictures.

saltwater crocodiles // the bush // border // illegal fishing vessels // F470 Zodiac // the Kimberleys // an Aboriginal woman // drugs



a. _____



b. _____



c. _____



d. _____



e. _____

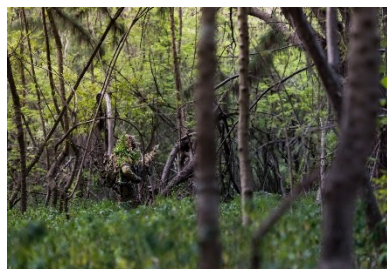


f. _____




g. _____

This is in the north west region of Australia. It's a beautiful place, with red rocks, rivers and water-falls. Few people live there.



h. _____

A wild natural area. This is also the Australian English word for 'forest'.

3)  Listen, check and repeat.

4) Discuss these questions with your partner to practise the new words.

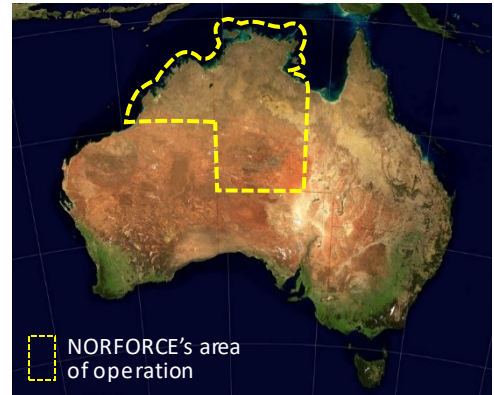
- Are there **crocodiles** in your country? Are they **saltwater crocodiles**?
- Do you like going on training in **the bush**?
- Why do you think the armed forces look for **illegal fishing vessels**?
- Does your country share any **borders**? With what countries?
- Do you know anything about **Aboriginals** in Australia?
- Can you drive an **F470 Zodiac**?
- Tourists love visiting **the Kimberleys**. Why do you think this is? Would you like to visit?
- Does the army do anything to try to stop **drugs** in your country? What do they do?

Reading

5) Read about NORFORCE. What do they do? Why are they special?

NORFORCE: Protecting Australia's North

Australia's northern border is huge. Not many people live in this part of Australia. This means it is an attractive place for people trying to get drugs into Australia and for illegal fishing vessels. But they have NORFORCE to deal with if they try! NORFORCE patrols a huge area of 1.8 million square kilometres. It conducts surveillance and reconnaissance across the entire Northern Territory and Kimberly region of Western Australia. This is the largest area of operations for any military unit in the world. Its mission is to protect Australia's Northern border and central area.



NORFORCE has deep links with the local Aboriginal communities.

About 74% of people who live in this area are Aboriginals. Aboriginals have lived on their land for 65,000 years. They are the oldest living culture on earth. Many of the soldiers who work for NORFORCE were originally civilians from these local Aboriginal communities. They know the land very well – the rivers, the bush, and the animals. This knowledge is very helpful when they are doing their work.

Their main job is to gather intelligence. This means they find information. For example, they look for anything unusual, often from observation posts. They also use boats like the F470 Zodiacs to patrol. They might see a boat where it should not be, or signs of people who shouldn't be there. If they find something important, they radio their HQ to tell them. NORFORCE soldiers often work in small teams called sections. These sections go into the bush. They use their fieldcraft and stealth skills to conceal themselves, so people cannot see them easily.

They do not have to worry so much about an ambush from the enemy. But they do need to make sure they are not ambushed by salties! This is what Australians call the huge saltwater crocodiles than the Zodiac boats!



of northern Australia.
of the Australian
very special part of
an Defence Force.

*NORFORCE soldier uses his
night vision device to scan the
ground during a patrol in the northern
region.*

6) Read the text again and decide if the following statements are true or false.

- There is a big population in the North of Australia. TRUE // FALSE
- NORFORCE is the largest military force in the world. TRUE // FALSE
- Around three quarters of people living in the NORFORCE area are Aboriginal. TRUE // FALSE
- Aboriginals have a long history with the land where NORFORCE work. TRUE // FALSE
- Sometimes, NORFORCE patrol by boat. TRUE // FALSE
- Salties are small, but quite dangerous. TRUE // FALSE
- NORFORCE patrols more than half of Australia. TRUE // FALSE

7) Look at the words in **bold** in the reading. We will match them to their definitions next. First, look at them in the sentences and talk to your friends. Do you know any of them? Have you ever heard or read these words before? What part of speech are the words? What do you guess they mean?

Tip: When you see a new word in English, you can:

- find out how to say the word with an online dictionary
- practise using the word in your speaking.

Learning military vocabulary

8) The words in **bold** are important military vocabulary that you should learn. Match them to their definitions on the right. Look at the example and write the answers in the middle column.

Table 1







NORFORCE patrols a huge area	f	a. (n) watching things like planes, land, or water closely; soldiers can use their eyes, ears, or special equipment	
It conducts surveillance and reconnaissance		b. (n) a special job or task that soldiers are sent to do	
It conducts surveillance and reconnaissance		c. (vp) to secretly collect important information about an enemy or a dangerous situation	
Its mission is to protect		d. (n) places where soldiers stay to watch an area carefully; they use them to look for enemies or important things	
civilians from these local Aboriginal communities		e. (n) people who are not in the army or other military groups; they are not members of the Defence Forces	
job is to gather intelligence		f. (v) to move around an area regularly to watch or guard it	
often from observation posts		g. (n) when soldiers or drones go to an area to find out information about an enemy or a place	

Table 2

they <u>radio</u> their HQ		h. (n) a way of moving or doing something very quietly and secretly so that no one sees or hears you.	
they radio their <u>HQ</u>		i. (v) to hide something or someone so that they cannot be seen or found.	
soldiers work in <u>sections</u>		j. (v) to speak to someone using a special communication device, usually to send important messages or information.	
They use their <u>fieldcraft</u>		k. (n) 'headquarters'. It is the main office or place where the leaders of an army or group work and make plans.	
<u>stealth</u> skills to conceal		l. (n) small groups of soldiers, usually 6 to 10 people, who work together as a team in the army.	
to <u>conceal</u> themselves		m. (v) to be attacked by surprise by an enemy who was hidden.	
<u>ambushed</u> by salties		n. (n) the set of skills a soldier uses to hide, move, and survive in a natural environment.	

9)  Listen and check.

10)  Now practise saying the words. Listen and repeat.

Practice

11) Complete the questions with new words from the box.

patrol // ambushed // mission // section // conceal // radio // stealth

- What would you do if a saltie _____ you?
- How do you _____ yourself when you are on patrol?
- Can you describe your last _____? Were you successful?
- Do you prefer to work in a _____ or as a bigger group?
- How can soldiers move with _____ when they are on patrol?
- When was the last time you had to _____ HQ?
- What skills are most important for a soldier to have when they are on _____?

12) Ask and answer the questions above with a partner to practise new words.

13) Role play. Imagine you are part of a working group discussing how to keep your country's borders safe. Discuss ideas with your group. Try to use as many words as you can from today's lesson. You should discuss:

- the main problems at the borders
- how the armed forces in your country can help.

The main problems are...

Something the armed forces can do to help is ...

One thing I would like to add is...



Patrolling borders is an important way to keep a country safe.

We should also think about...

-  Watch this video about the NORFORCE Kimberly squadron and the work they do. Type "[ADF Patrolling through adversity](#)" on YouTube or scan the QR code →

Circle the things you see.

a Zodiac boat // illegal fishing vessels // soldiers on patrol //

something that has been concealed // an observation post // a saltwater crocodile



- For more [practice](#) with the words you've learned here, scan the QR code. →
- This lesson links with → Lesson: On Patrol – Listening

