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HMAS Sydney Crew Returns Home After Indo-Pacific Mission

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The 240-strong crew of HMAS Sydney, a Royal Australian Navy destroyer, returned to Sydney on August 1, 2025, after a four-and-a-half-month deployment across the Indo-Pacific, strengthening regional security ties.

On August 1, 2025, the crew of HMAS Sydney, a Hobart-class air warfare destroyer of the Royal Australian Navy (RAN), sailed into Fleet Base East in Sydney Harbour, marking the end of a four-and-a-half-month Regional Presence Deployment (RPD), as reported by Mirage News. Having covered 28,264 nautical miles since departing in March, the 240 personnel engaged in exercises and operations with nations including Canada, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, the Philippines, Singapore, Spain, the United Kingdom, and the United States. The deployment, part of the Australian Defence Force's (ADF) commitment

to regional stability, included port visits to Japan, Singapore, the Philippines, and the Republic of Korea, reinforcing Australia's role as a reliable security partner.

Commander Ben Weller, Commanding Officer of HMAS Sydney, praised the crew's dedication, noting that the mission showcased the ship's capabilities and strengthened alliances, according to the Department of Defence. The deployment featured significant moments, including commemorating Anzac Day at sea, celebrating Mother's Day remotely, and marking the ship's fifth commissioning anniversary. In its final week, the crew enjoyed lighter activities, such as a trivia night, a seafood buffet, and a swim exercise (SWIMEX) in the Whitsundays, as detailed by Mirage News. Sydney also participated in Exercise Talisman Sabre and enforced United Nations Security Council (UNSC) sanctions against North Korea under Operation Argos, per GlobalSecurity.org.

The deployment highlighted the ADF's focus on interoperability, with Sydney integrating with a United Kingdom-led Carrier Strike Group (CSG) and conducting training with the Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force and U.S. Navy. Vice Admiral Justin Jones, Chief of Joint Operations, emphasized that such deployments underscore Australia's commitment to a rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific, as cited by the Department of Defence. The ship's return, greeted by families at the wharf, was a moment of pride for the crew, many of whom hail from Queensland, where community support was evident during a Gold Coast sail-past.

HMAS Sydney now enters a maintenance period in dry dock, allowing the crew well-earned rest. The mission's success reinforces the ADF's readiness and regional influence, setting the stage for HMAS Brisbane's ongoing RPD in 2025.