



**Australian
BORDER FORCE**

Submarine Rotational Force – West 2025 – ABF Border Entry Requirements

Australian Border Force Briefing
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Entry and Visa requirements

Military personnel from countries with Force agreements such as the United States of America may be entitled to receive a **Special Purpose Visa (SPV)** on arrival. You do not have to organise this prior to arriving on Australian soil. This will be taken care of when you get here.

Spouses, de facto partners and dependent relatives of the primary military member are also eligible to be granted an SPV when accompanying or joining the member.

The **Special Purpose visa** is a temporary visa that is only valid as long as you have a 'prescribed status'.

If you are a spouse, de facto partner or dependent relative of the primary member, and listed on the travel orders as accompanying them to Australia, you are able to work and study while in Australia.

Cost

There is no application fee for this visa.

Entry and Visa requirements

Special Purpose Travel Authority

For individuals travelling via commercial airline – we highly recommend registration through the Special Purpose Travel Authority (SPTA) Portal as this will streamline processing and limit delays on arrival.

Registration in the Portal allows the immigration systems to reflect that a Special Purpose Visa will be granted on arrival. This will assist with check in at the airline counter in departure country.

Where ABF has visibility of the incoming commercial movements, we have capacity to notify the relevant port in advance – so they are aware of your arrival.

You can access SPTA Portal through [APP System \(homeaffairs.gov.au\)](https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au). This registration can sometimes be completed by your country's embassy or high commission.

Incoming Passenger Card (IPC)

Incoming passenger card • Australia

PLEASE COMPLETE IN ENGLISH WITH A BLUE OR BLACK PEN

▶ Family/surname

▶ Given names

▶ Passport number

◆ Flight number or name of ship

▶ Intended address in Australia

State

▶ Do you intend to live in Australia for the next 12 months? Yes No

▶ If you are **NOT an Australian citizen**:

Do you have tuberculosis? Yes No

Do you have any criminal conviction/s? Yes No

DECLARATION
The information I have given is true, correct and complete. I understand failure to answer any questions may have serious consequences.

PLEASE ✕ AND ANSWER EVERY QUESTION – IF UNSURE, Yes ✕

▶ Are you bringing into Australia:

- Goods that may be prohibited or subject to restrictions, such as medicines, steroids, illegal pornography, firearms, weapons or illicit drugs? Yes No
- More than 2250mL of alcoholic beverages or 25 cigarettes or 25g of tobacco products? Yes No
- Goods obtained overseas or purchased duty and/or tax free in Australia with a combined total price of more than AUD\$900, including gifts? Yes No
- Goods/samples for business/commercial use? Yes No
- AUD\$10,000 or more in Australian or foreign currency equivalent? Yes No

Note: If a customs or police officer asks, you must report travellers cheques, cheques, money orders or other bearer negotiable instruments of any amount.

- Meat, poultry, fish, seafood, eggs, dairy, fruit, vegetables? Yes No
- Grains, seeds, bulbs, straw, nuts, plants, parts of plants, traditional medicines or herbs, wooden articles? Yes No
- Animals, parts of animals, animal products including equipment, pet food, eggs, biologicals, specimens, birds, fish, insects, shells, bee products? Yes No
- Soil, items with soil attached or used in freshwater areas e.g. sports/recreational equipment, shoes? Yes No
- Have you been in contact with farms, farm animals, wilderness areas or freshwater streams/lakes etc in the past 30 days? Yes No
- Were you in Africa, South/Central America or the Caribbean in the last 6 days? Yes No

YOUR SIGNATURE _____ Day _____ Month _____ Year _____

TURN OVER THE CARD ▶ English

YOUR CONTACT DETAILS IN AUSTRALIA

Phone ()

E-mail

OR

Address _____ State _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT DETAILS (FAMILY OR FRIEND)

Name _____

E-mail, Phone OR Mail address _____

PLEASE COMPLETE IN ENGLISH

▶ In which country did you board this flight or ship? _____

◆ What is your usual occupation? _____

▶ Nationality as shown on passport _____

▶ Date of birth _____ Day _____ Month _____ Year _____

PLEASE ✕ AND ANSWER A OR B OR C

A Migrating permanently to Australia

B Visitor or temporary entrant

Your intended length of stay in Australia _____ Years _____ Months _____ Days _____ OR _____

Your country of residence _____

Your main reason for travel (✕ one only)

Convention/conference 1 Visiting friends or relatives 3 Education 5 Holiday 7

Business 2 Employment 4 Exhibition 6 Other 8

C Resident returning to Australia

▶ Country where you spent most time abroad _____

MAKE SURE YOU HAVE COMPLETED BOTH SIDES OF THIS CARD. PRESENT THIS CARD ON ARRIVAL WITH YOUR PASSPORT.

Information sought on this form is required to administer immigration, customs, quarantine, statistical, health, wildlife and other currency laws of Australia and its collection is authorised by legislation. It will be disclosed only to agencies administering these areas and authorised or required to receive it under Australian law. Form 1442i Privacy notice is available from <https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/help-support/departmental-forms>

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- The Incoming Passenger Card (IPC) is a legal declaration providing information regarding a traveller’s identity, health and character questions including goods in their possession at the time of their arrival.
- IPCs contain a series of questions to assist Customs, Immigration and Biosecurity clearance procedures.
- IPCs must be completed in English and signed by each traveller.
- Travellers arriving on commercial aircraft will be provided IPCs by the airline inflight, prior to arrival into Australia.
- Travellers arriving on chartered aircraft may need to obtain an IPC on arrival and complete this prior to immigration clearance.

Duty Free Goods



- **Tobacco/Vapes**
 - 25 cigarettes or 25 grams (plus one extra opened packet permitted)
 - 2 vapes; and 20 vape cartridges, capsules or pods; and 200ml of vape liquid.



- **Alcohol**
 - If you are aged above 18 years or over, 2.25 litres



- **General Goods**
 - If you are aged above 18 years or over, A\$900 worth of goods (gifts, souvenirs, cameras, electronic equipment, leather goods, perfume concentrates, jewellery, watches and sporting equipment.)

NOTE: If you exceed any of the concession limits set out above, the concession will be lost and ABF will charge duty and tax on all items in the group which was exceeded.

Prohibited Goods

- Prohibited items include, but are not limited to:
 - Laser pointers with an accessible emission level of greater than 1mW
 - Certain types of knives / daggers
 - Personal weapons (firearms and knives)
 - Performance or Image Enhancing Drugs (steroids)
 - Narcotics
 - Pornography and other objectionable material
 - Tobacco products (not including traveller concessional amounts)

Medicines and Substances

You can bring in medicines for personal use, but there are restrictions. Prescription medication can be imported under a traveller exemption, provided that:

- you are arriving in Australia as a passenger on board a ship or aircraft
- the medicine is carried in your accompanied baggage
- you carry a letter or copy of your prescription (written in English) from your doctor to certify that the medicine has been prescribed to you to treat a medical condition
- the quantity of the medicine does not exceed three months supply.

You should leave your medicine in its original packaging and declare it to the Australian Border Force when you arrive.

Outside of the traveller exemption, if you are seeking to import controlled or prohibited substances you will likely need to obtain permission/permit from the Australian Department of Health and Aged Care, Office of Drug Control.

Please refer to [Can you bring it in? \(abf.gov.au\)](https://abf.gov.au) for guidance.

Engaging a Customs Broker/other agent

- Military personnel and their spouses, de facto partners and dependent relatives should engage the services of a customs broker and/or other agent licenced in Australia. A licensed customs broker can assist in the accurate and timely reporting of all goods, for example, consolidating and submitting all import documentation in order to facilitate the cargo clearing process for your household goods.
- All goods entering Australia must be reported in alignment with Australian legislative requirements. If the household goods are not reported correctly, there may be issues accessing the goods in a timely manner.
- ABF does not have the resources to intervene on individual cases, so issues with reporting of the goods may result in delays in accessing your household goods.

Importing personal effects/household goods

Unaccompanied Personal Effects (UPEs) are your household and personal items that you import into Australia but that arrive separately to you. UPEs may arrive in Australia by air, sea cargo or by international mail (post).

UPEs include:

- clothing and footwear
- personal hygiene and grooming items
- furniture
- appliances
- sporting equipment, and
- books.

They may also include, subject to conditions, non-motorised caravans, boats and aircraft.

You may be eligible for a UPE concession. If you are eligible, we will clear your UPEs from customs control without requiring you to pay:

- customs duty
- goods and services tax (GST), or
- other taxes and charges.

A customs broker or other agent can assist with the lodgement required forms and statements.

Permits/Permissions for other goods

Type of Goods	Consideration
Animals (pets)	<p>The permit issuing agency is Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.</p> <p>Further to information available via Importing animals - Importing live animals and reproductive material - DAFF (agriculture.gov.au)</p>
Vehicles (road)	<p>The permit issuing agency is Department of Infrastructure, Transport, Regional Development, Communications and the Arts.</p> <p>Further to information available via Importing a road vehicle into Australia.</p>
Use of public roads for these vehicles	Refer to relevant state based Transport authority
Medicine and other substances	<p>The permit issuing agency is Department of Health and Aged Care, Office of Drug Control.</p> <p>Further to information available via Controlled substances Office of Drug Control (ODC).</p>

ABF/Department of Home Affairs Internet Links

Special Purpose Visa (includes information about health insurance etc.) - [Special Purpose visa \(homeaffairs.gov.au\)](#)

Special Purpose Authority Portal - [APP System \(homeaffairs.gov.au\)](#)

Duty-free concession limits - [Duty free \(abf.gov.au\)](#)

Prohibited Goods - [List of prohibited items \(abf.gov.au\)](#)

Can you bring it in? - [Can you bring it in? \(abf.gov.au\)](#)

Customs Brokers - [Brokerages \(abf.gov.au\)](#)

Unaccompanied Personal Effects (including how to lodge required forms/statements) - [Unaccompanied Personal Effects \(abf.gov.au\)](#)

Key Points

- Be sure you are aware of what you can and can't bring to Australia, and where permits or permissions are required.
- We recommend you engage a customs broker to assist with entry of your household goods.

Checklist

ABF have developed a bespoke checklist to assist with understanding the requirements for entry into Australia.



Official

Submarine Rotational Force – West 2025 - Border Entry Requirements Checklist

Introduction

Purpose of this checklist

This checklist contains information that will assist in understanding the border entry requirements for the US military personnel (including their spouses, de facto partners and dependent relatives) and their personal effects as part of the Submarine Rotational Force - West (SRF-W) 2025. The checklist will outline how US military personnel can satisfy requirements when traversing the Australian border.



Questions?