

frigate HMAS *Ballarat*. Commodore Ray Griggs, Deputy Maritime Commander said, 'The successful rescue follows the two helicopters covering over 1,500 kilometres since launching from *Albatross*. This operation shows the flexibility of naval aircraft and their ability to be re-tasked at short notice.' Steve Landles said, 'It was a very impressive display by the Australians for which I am very grateful.'

Two Navy Agusta A109E helicopters over Jervis Bay.

9 AUGUST 2007

Arrival into service of the first two Agusta Westland helicopters

Two multi-engine Agusta Westland A109E helicopters to be used for training junior aircrew were welcomed into service by the Minister for Defence, Dr Brendan Nelson. Commodore David Letts, Director General Navy Personnel and Training, accompanied the minister and spoke of the impact of the helicopters on the new Retention and Motivation Initiative (RMI):

The RMI provides the Navy with a flexible arrangement to increase the amount of time young aircrew can spend maintaining flying skills. These safe and reliable twin-engine Agusta helicopters will allow junior aircrew to consolidate and enhance skills prior to flight training in other more sophisticated Navy helicopters.



HMAS *Betano* conducts an Aviation Sea Safety Assessment with a 723 Squadron Agusta Westland 109E helicopter in 2008.