

# NEWS RELEASE



**The Hon. Graham West MP**  
Minister for Juvenile Justice  
Minister for Youth  
Minister for Volunteering  
Minister Assisting the Premier  
on Veterans' Affairs

**Friday 13 March 2009**

## **Freedom of Entry Parade honours our servicemen and women**

The largest parade of naval personnel since 1945 will tomorrow march from The Rocks, to Tumbalong Park, at Darling Harbour.

Mr West said up to 5,000 Royal Australian Navy personnel, along with Navy Cadets, will march in the parade.

"This is a rare opportunity to view a military parade of this scale and it promises to be a great spectacle," Mr West said.

"The officers and sailors will leave The Rocks at 10am, make their way along George Street, turn right into Liverpool Street and finish at Tumbalong Park.

"The parade honours the sacrifices of those who have fought for our country and those who are still protecting us today.

"Following the parade, spectators can head down to Circular Quay, where 19 Royal Australian Navy ships have anchored east of the Opera House.

"The Royal Australian Navy commemorations signal the end of a recent six-week training exercise off the east coast.

"The parade also follows last month's welcome home of HMAS Parramatta, which had been on deployment in the Middle East since August 2008.

"The Freedom of Entry parade is a great time to thank the 185 crew members of HMAS Parramatta, and the Commanding Officer CMDR Jonathon Sadlier, for their role in the Middle East, which included protecting offshore oil infrastructure and training Iraqi navy personnel.

"Saturday will be a momentous day in Sydney, and I am sure many NSW residents will be heading into the city to enjoy the parade," Mr West said.

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