



AUSTRALIAN CIVIL-MILITARY CENTRE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

December 2022

Australian Civil Military Centre Update

Welcome to the ACMC's quarterly stakeholder update.

As we approach the end of another busy year, this is an opportunity to reflect on what we collectively have achieved in 2022. As you will see in this update, ACMC has engaged with our Asia-Pacific regional partners and a wide range of domestic stakeholders. I anticipate the tempo of engagements and collaboration will increase in 2023.

Please feel free to forward this update to your colleagues and team members. The next update will be released in February 2023. ACMC wishes you a Happy Christmas and look forward to working with you in 2023.

If you have any feedback or content suggestions, contact Andy Anderson: andrew.anderson@acmc.gov.au

Ms Angela Fitzsimons

A/Executive Director
Australian Civil Military Centre

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- ✓ Launch of *Working With The Military Guide* and transfer of online learning to "ADELE Open"
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Upcoming events

ACMC is planning to participate in the Lessons Management Forum - a joint event coordinated by the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council and the Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience

Enhancing Multi-Agency Biological Threat Preparedness and Response in Fiji and Timor-Leste

COVID-19 highlighted the threat that biological contagion outbreaks and pandemics pose to global health and security. ACMC and the Australian National University's (ANU) School of Pacific Affairs have partnered with Fiji and Timor Leste stakeholders to develop concepts which strengthen multi-agency biological threat preparedness.

The ANU's Dr Nick Thomson led the project, building on his 20 years' experience in partnerships between security and health sectors in the Indo-Pacific region. Local researchers in Fiji and Timor-Leste supported stakeholder engagement and data collection.

During 2021 and 2022, Dr Thomson, supported by a project advisory group, coordinated desk-based research, qualitative interviews and workshops.

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The project report has made a range of recommendations to develop and sustain multi-agency structures and strengthen skills and capabilities in both Fiji and Timor Leste in the next 1-2 years.

For further information on this partnership and the way forward, please contact Mr Wayne Snell, ACMC Director of Concepts and Capabilities.

Dr Nick Thomson (ANU) and the ACMC Director Concepts and Capabilities Mr Wayne Snell at a Pacific Pandemic Preparedness workshop



ACMC support to Exercise LONGREACH – Timor Leste

ACMC has supported a Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response (HADR) Table-Top Exercise (TTX) in Timor Leste as part of Exercise LONGREACH 22 from 31 August to 8 September 2022.

The exercise was a Defence Cooperation Program – Timor Leste (DCP-TL) and Australian Embassy Dili initiative, delivered by Joint Task Force (JTF) 637 and US Army Pacific (USARPAC).

The HADR TTX aimed to enhance the capability of Timor Leste civilian, military and police organisations to respond to natural disasters experienced during the High Risk Weather Season.

ACMC deployed Mr Damian Eaton, Assistant Director Preparedness, to the exercise to assist JTF 637, USARPAC and the Timor Leste Civil Protection Authority (CPA), as the host-nation National Disaster Management Office (NDMO), with facilitation of the HADR TTX, participate in the preceding Expert Academics discussion and identify future opportunities for ACMC engagement with key stakeholders.

A wide range of civilian, military and police organisations from Australia, Timor Leste and the United States, as well as International Organisations such as the United Nations (UN) and Non-Government Organisations (NGO) attended the TTX.

During the Expert Academics Phase, Mr Eaton participated in a panel discussion with Superintendent Ismael Da Costa Babo

(President TL CPA), Mr Roy Trivedy (UN Residential Coordinator) and Dr Albert 'Mo' Morales (US Centre for Excellence in Disaster Management) to discuss interagency coordination experiences from recent domestic and international disaster responses.



Expert Panel Discussion (L-R): Mr Joe Althouse (Facilitator), Mr Roy Trivedy (UN Residential Coordinator), SUPT Ismael Da Costa Babo (President TL CPA), Mr Damian Eaton (ACMC) and Dr 'Mo' Morales (US CFE-DM)



Exercise LONGREACH 22 (Timor Leste)



ACMC Support to Exercise LONGREACH - Fiji

ACMC has also supported the inaugural Exercise LONGREACH Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) TTX at the Blackrock Peacekeeping & HADR Camp in Nadi, Fiji from 19-21 July 2022.

Exercise LONGREACH was to develop draft Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) to guide military participation in civilian-led HADR efforts in the Pacific. The SOPs complement the Pacific Island Forum Strategic Roadmap for Emergency Management and were presented to the Indo Pacific Chiefs of Defence (CHODs) Conference in Sydney on 25-27 July 2022.

Mr Damian Eaton, ACMC Assistant Director Preparedness, attended the exercise in order to assist International Policy Division, Joint Task Force (JTF) 637 and the Republic of Fiji Military Force (RFMF) with facilitation of exercise discussions and to identify future stakeholder engagement opportunities

Military, police and civilian organisations from nearly all South Pacific Defence Ministers' Meeting participating nations (Australia, Fiji, France, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Tonga) attended, along with observers from Japan and the United States.

ACMC attendance was essential to ensuring that a civilian-military-police focus was maintained throughout the exercise and to enhance understanding of civilian-led processes and procedures required to facilitate a military response to a regional disaster.



Official Opening of Exercise LONGREACH 2022 (Fiji)

The Australian Civil-Military Centre delivers a unique capability to government, promoting civil-military-police cooperation domestically and throughout the Indo-Pacific region.

Our success is measured by how well Australia prepares and mobilises our national efforts in response to disasters and other crises.

ACMC ePublications available now



Lessons Management Community of Practice Workshop

On 3 August 22 ACMC supported the Australasian Lesson Management Community of Practice (CoP) virtual workshop. Approximately 70 personnel from organisations across Australia and New Zealand participated including Defence, NSW SES, Department of Health, Emergency Management Australia (now the National Emergency Management Agency) and the National Emergency Management Agency New Zealand.

The workshop focus was – ‘What are the enablers for successful Lesson Management?’ Syndicate discussion drew out some common themes:

- how do you garner executive level buy-in and the provision of appropriate and ongoing resourcing for lessons;
- promoting the benefits of lessons for evidence-based decision making,
- aligning lesson collection activities with organisational and executive priorities and
- how do you build an environment that builds understanding, trust and cooperation and promotes a ‘no blame culture’ and a Culture of Learning.

The themes and information from the workshop will inform lesson managers across the Community of Practice and will form a foundation on which the National Emergency Management Agency New Zealand can develop a Lessons Management Framework for New Zealand Government agencies.



ACMC Support to JTF629 for Exercise VITAL PROSPECT

In mid-October, ACMC staff supported Joint Task Force 629’s (JTF629) Table-Top Exercise, part of the Exercise VITAL PROSPECT series. The TTX aimed to develop the Task Force’s planning capability.

ACMC representatives joined members of the Department of Home Affairs’ Cyber and Infrastructure Security Centre (CISC), Attorney Generals Department, Australian Federal Police, National Emergency Management Agency and Australia Border Force to provide specialist advice to the planning teams.

The involvement of these organisations identified several planning issues around number of topics, including authorities, delegations and empowering instruments and determining lead agencies for humanitarian assistance and security-related scenarios.

At the end of the activity, it was identified that the ACMC is ideally placed to coordinate and facilitate interagency workshops to discuss these issues to build stronger relationships and understanding between JTF629 / the 2nd Division and the Other Government Agencies and Non-Government Organisations.



Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR)

ACMC has shared knowledge and lessons and further broadened its international network during the recent Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR).

The conference, held in Brisbane from 19-22 September, attracted several thousand delegates from more than 40 nations including Ministers, government officials, the private sector and civil society representatives.

The conference was hosted by the Australian Government and convened by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). The conference theme was ‘From Crisis to Resilience: Transforming the Asia-Pacific Region’s future through disaster risk reduction.’

“APMCDRR is one of the most important gatherings in the Asia-Pacific to progress disaster risk reduction efforts. DRR includes disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and recovery,” A/Executive Director, ACMC, Angela Fitzsimons said.

“This major international conference was a significant opportunity for ACMC to engage delegates and share lessons in disaster preparedness and response. Also, we have further broadened our Asia Pacific regional contact network and look forward to continued engagement with these stakeholders.”

For further information, visit: <https://apmcdrr.undrr.org/>



Above: ACMC’s Deahne Turnbull engages with conference delegates at the ACMC Stand
Right: Conference Opening Cerimony



Upcoming Events

ACMC is planning to participate in the [Lessons Management Forum](#) – a joint event coordinated by the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council and the Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience. The forum is scheduled for 20 -23 June 2023 in Canberra, focussed on the theme ‘Closing the Loop - the challenges of Change.’