



Australian Government

Australian Civil-Military Centre

AUSTRALIAN CIVIL-MILITARY CENTRE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

June 2024

Australian Civil-Military Centre Update

ACMC continues to build civil-military capacity in Australia and around the region. Recently ACMC has delivered training on UN Civil-Military Coordination (Fiji), Lessons Management (Hobart) and Protection of Civilians (Canberra).

ACMC also continues to contribute to regional and global civil-military best practice. The research team coordinated a stakeholder workshop in Bangkok, gathering multilateral and regional perspectives as we look to refresh our Guiding Principles for Civil-Military interaction in crises. Staff also delivered presentations and focus group sessions at the Humanitarian Network and Partnerships Week in Geneva and supported an INDOPACOM-led HADR exercise in Mongolia involving 17 regional partners.

Last week, we welcomed our new Deputy Executive Director: former Chief of the Royal New Zealand Navy, [Rear Admiral \(rttd\) David Proctor](#). David brings extensive civil-military experience, including his work with the United Nations and as New Zealand's senior officer in Timor-Leste. I look forward to David's strategic contributions to our Centre going forward.

Nicola Rosenblum
Executive Director
Australian Civil-Military Centre

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New Deputy Executive Director

Rear Admiral (rtd) David Proctor joined ACMC as Deputy Executive Director in May 2024, following a distinguished 37-year career in the Royal New Zealand Navy, culminating as Chief of Navy.

David’s military career included various senior postings including:

- Deputy Commander Joint Forces New Zealand
- Acting Vice Chief of the Defence Force New Zealand
- Chief of Logistics, United Nations Mission In Support of Timor-Leste
- New Zealand Senior National Officer in Support of Timor-Leste
- Commander Logistics New Zealand
- Chief of Defence Strategy and Governance New Zealand



David is a member of the New Zealand Institute of Directors and is a graduate and fellow of the Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies in Canberra. He has a Masters in Management (Defence Studies) and a Masters in Politics and Policy. David was the New Zealand Defence Force Gender Equity Champion from 2020 through 2024. David is exploring his māori whakapapa (genealogy), his iwi affiliations are to Ngāti Koriki Kahukura and Te Iwi Heramana. He is married to his best friend, Wendy (Proctor).

Australian and international experts address ACMC’s Protection of Civilians course



ACMC brought together Australian and international experts to deliver a course on Protection of Civilians in Canberra on 22-23 May 2024.

Sixty participants from across government agencies and civil society considered issues such as how gender impacts protection, the risks in urban and maritime warfare, the humanitarian consequences of mis and disinformation, and how cultural

property can be better protected. The course also explored good practices and challenges in implementing protection policies in operations.

The course aimed to build the capacity of government agencies, humanitarian organisations and civil society to work more effectively together to protect civilians in situations of armed conflict, as no one agency or sector can do this alone.

To learn more about ACMC’s commitment to advancing Protection of Civilians, visit: acmc.gov.au/why-were-here/protection-of-civilians



Fiji UN Civil-Military Coordination training

ACMC delivered a United Nations Humanitarian Civil Military Coordination (CM Coord) training course in Nadi, Fiji, along with key regional and global partners. The Indo-Pacific region is regularly impacted by natural disasters, such as cyclones, earthquakes, flooding and landslides. The UN CM Coord course aims to build cross-agency coordination in preparing for, responding to and recovering from disasters. Fiji's Minister for Rural, Maritime Development and Disaster Management, Hon Sakiasi Ditoka attended the course opening ceremony. Twenty four representatives from fifteen Indo-Pacific police forces, militaries, disaster management agencies and NGOs attended the week-long course, which was conducted with key partners: the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

(UNOCHA), the Centre for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (CFE-DMHA) and the Fiji National Disaster Management Office (NDMO). ACMC delivers capacity building and outreach in the Indo-Pacific region, working closely with local police, military and disaster management agencies.



ACMC contributes to civil-military best practice

ACMC is undertaking research to refresh ACMC's Guiding Principles for Civil-Military Interaction in a Crisis. As part of this project, ACMC representatives convened a data collection workshop in Bangkok in mid-May. The workshop engaged regional experts to collate multilateral and regional perspectives.

ACMC staff also attended Humanitarian Network and Partnerships Week in Geneva to deliver presentations and focus groups on civil-military-police coordination in health emergencies and validate its ongoing research. This work will support UNOCHA's refresh of the Oslo Guidelines on the Use of Military and Civil Defence Assets in Disaster Relief.





Lessons Management initiatives – Adelaide and Hobart

The increasing scale and frequency of disasters in Australia and our region requires strengthened multi-agency capability to learn from operational experience and embed lessons in future responses.

ACMC's Wayne Snell and Mark Cuthbert shared latest lessons management thinking at the National Lessons Management Forum in Adelaide in May, organised by the Australasian Fire and Emergency Services Authorities Council and the Australian Institute for Disaster Resilience. In the margins, ACMC hosted an Australasian Lessons Managers Community of Practice Collaboration Workshop to strengthen civil-military lessons interoperability and enhance the lessons managers network.

ACMC also delivered a Facilitate Lessons Management Process Course for a civil military training audience in Hobart in early May.

The course involved 20 participants from 11 organisations, including personnel from Tasmania, Victoria and New South Wales emergency management agencies as well as Australian Government personnel from the Bureau of Meteorology, the National Emergency Management Agency and Defence. The course introduced general lessons management concepts and principles for use by civil-military agencies across Australia.

For more information on ACMC's Lessons program, visit:

<https://acmc.gov.au/what-we-do/building-capability/lessons-and-evaluations>



WPS Civil Society engagement

ACMC and the Australian Civil Society Coalition on Women, Peace and Security recently convened a follow-up dialogue on Women, Peace & Security (WPS) in Canberra.

Government and civil society representatives attended the dialogue to consider collaborative strategies to address the recommendations in the Women, Peace and Security Government-Civil Society Dialogue report 2023.



ACMC has an important role in supporting the implementation of the Australian Government's second WPS NAP. For more detail, visit:

<https://acmc.gov.au/why-were-here/women-peace-and-security>

Women in maritime security scenario exercise

ACMC collaborated with the Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (ANCORS) to conduct a maritime cooperation table top exercise as part of a Regional Women in Maritime Security course.

The course brought together 25 women from Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Vietnam and Australia to increase understanding of regional maritime challenges. The exercise at ACMC, centred on a civil maritime disaster scenario in the South China Sea, explored opportunities for greater cross-jurisdictional and cross-agency cooperation in search and rescue, salvage and environmental protection.



Exercise Tempest Express Mongolia

ACMC reinforced its commitment to regional civil-military-police coordination, through participation in a major humanitarian assistance/disaster relief (HADR) Exercise in Mongolia.

ACMC's Foreign Affairs adviser Jonathan Ball travelled to Ulaanbaatar to deliver presentations and support group discussions at an INDOPACOM-led Exercise TEMPEST EXPRESS multinational workshop. Seventeen regional partners attended the workshop to test and update Multinational Force Standard Operating Procedures for HADR.

