



Australian Government

Australian Civil-Military Centre

AUSTRALIAN CIVIL-MILITARY CENTRE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

September 2024

Australian Civil-Military Centre Update

Recent months have been characterised by organisational change and our busy schedule of domestic and regional engagements.

ACMC formally transitioned to Joint Operations Command on 1 July, in line with a key recommendation from the ACMC Strategic Review. Our core tasks have not changed; we remain committed to building civil-military-police capability in Australia and in the region through cooperation with our Indo-Pacific partners. The administrative move better reflects the operational alignment of much of ACMC's work. Physically, you can still find us at our offices in Queanbeyan.

In July, I had the pleasure of hosting a visit by Joseph Martin, Director of the US Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (CFE-DM). ACMC and CFE-DM signed a Memorandum of Understanding to further deepen our existing strong relationship.

Across the Indo-Pacific region, ACMC has continued engagements with our partners in Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea and Malaysia.

Nicola Rosenblum
Executive Director
Australian Civil-Military Centre

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ACMC hosts visit by CFE-DM Director

In July, ACMC hosted a visit by Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (CFE-DM) Director Joseph Martin, which focussed on climate and security implications in the Pacific region.

Mr Martin’s visit featured a range of discussions with Australian government agencies and civil society to learn about plans Australia is implementing to mitigate and adapt to the domestic and regional challenges posed by increased frequency and severity of disasters.

During the visit, ACMC Executive Director Nicola Rosenblum and Mr Martin signed a Memorandum of Understanding to enhance our working relationship in research, coordination and capacity building in the Pacific and South East Asia and staff training.



Nicola Rosenblum, ACMC and Joseph Martin, CFE-DM with the signed Memorandum of Understanding

ACMC supports HADR Exercise in the Northern Territory



ACMC staff participated HADR Ex BHAKTI KANYINI AUSINDO (Ex BKA) in the Northern Territory in August.

Ex BKA included elements of the Australian Defence Force, US Marine Rotational Force Darwin (MRF-D) and Indonesian Armed Forces. Australian civilian participants included elements of the National Critical Care and Trauma Response Centre (NCCTRC) who are based in Darwin, a deployed meteorologist from the Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) and a DFAT Crisis Response Team (CRT).

During the exercise, the MRF-D established a Role 2 (surgical) medical

facility which provided an excellent opportunity for both members of the NCCTRC (who themselves are able to deploy as the Australian Medical Assistance Team (AUSMAT) a 50 bed Role 2+ surgical hospital), and the ADFs 1st Health Battalion to share operational experiences and expertise. The BOM used the exercise to set up and test their new deployable weather station.

The exercise promoted closer HADR readiness and capability between participating countries and agencies.



ACMC building disaster preparedness in Tuvalu

ACMC has worked with Tuvaluan authorities and Australian and New Zealand stakeholders to further build Tuvalu capacity to prepare for and respond to natural disasters.

Tuvalu is particularly at risk from tropical cyclones and associated storm surges and flooding. In recent years, the Pacific Island nation has been impacted by inundation from king/spring tides (Feb 2024), Cyclone Tino (2020) and Cyclone Pam (2015).

ACMC supported Exercise Longreach in Funafuti, working with the Tuvalu National Disaster Management Office, local emergency response agencies and representatives from the Australian Defence Force's HQ 1 Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the New Zealand Defence Force.

The workshop aimed to enhance local inter-agency coordination and capacity to prepare for, respond to and recover from natural disasters. To learn more about ACMC's commitment to strengthening regional disaster preparedness, visit: [ACMC Disaster Management Page](#)



Ex PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP Vanuatu

In July, ACMC supported Exercise PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP in Vanuatu to strengthen relationships, build partner capacity and expand and improve information sharing. ACMC's Humanitarian Adviser Jules Frost presented on the International Humanitarian System and facilitated discussions on Gender, Peace and Security as part of the Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response workshop led by the US CFE-DM. Workshop participants were from eight Vanuatu government agencies, the US military, US Coast Guard, and USAID.

PACIFIC PARTNERSHIP is a US-led annual multinational HADR activity conducted in the Indo-Pacific. Now in its 20th year, it aims to enhance regional interoperability, disaster response capabilities, and security while strengthening partnerships in the Indo-Pacific.



Images - Department of Defence



PNG Disaster Response Exercise and Exchange

ACMC Assistant Director Preparedness, Damian Eaton, participated in Pacific Resilience, a Disaster Response Exercise and Exchange (DREE) in Papua New Guinea designed to bring key stakeholders together to improve disaster management preparedness and response. The DREE was coordinated by the US 9th Mission Support Command. ACMC continues to work with our PNG and US partners, including the Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs under the US State Partnership Program to build capacity and share knowledge.



Supporting key International dialogue on Civilian Harm Mitigation

ACMC supported the June 2024 meeting of the International Contact Group on Civilian Harm Mitigation and Response. ACMC’s Director of International and Domestic Engagement, Peter Giugni and the Director of Sensitive Issues Management, HQJOC, COL Chris Austin attended the two-day conference hosted by the UK Ministry of Defence.

Participants presented good practices and lessons in implementing policies and procedures to protect civilians in armed conflict, such as reviewing Protection of Civilians doctrine, implementing policies arising from the 2022 Political Declaration on Strengthening the Protection of Civilians from the Humanitarian Consequences arising from the use of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas, operationalising Law of Armed Conflict obligations, and initiatives to baseline national approaches to civilian harm mitigation and response. Civil society organisations also shared their experiences and advice.

Learn more about ACMC’s work on Protection of Civilians: [Protection of Civilians | ACMC](#)



Five Power Defence Arrangements HADR seminar

ACMC contributed to a Five Power Defence Arrangements (FPDA) Seminar in Penang in June. The FPDA nations – Australia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Singapore and the United Kingdom – meet annually to plan the forward exercise program. This year’s seminar focussed on HADR, with member nations providing an overview of how their respective armed forces and disaster management offices coordinate in the event of a crisis. ACMC presented a session on human security, highlighting the importance of holistic, localised responses to achieve better longer-term outcomes for affected communities.



Upcoming events

Civil Military Lessons Symposium - Canberra

ACMC will host a Civil-Military Lessons Symposium on 24-25 September 2024 in Canberra. The event will be an opportunity to share civil-military lessons identified from recent domestic and international operations, enhance networking and discuss future requirements for managing lessons and learning.

The symposium will be conducted in-person. There is no cost to attend. For further information and registrations, please email mark.cuthbert1@acmc.gov.au and George.moody@defence.gov.au

