



AUSTRALIAN CIVIL-MILITARY CENTRE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

JULY 2022

Australian Civil Military Centre Update July 2022

Recent challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic and major flooding in eastern Australia have reinforced the importance of cross-government and civil society collaboration and engagement in preparing for and responding to major crises.

As ACMC's ability to facilitate and participate in more face to face engagement grows domestically and internationally, it is time to commence regular updates to stakeholders. This is the first of ACMC's quarterly updates. Please feel free to forward this to your colleagues and team members. The next update will be released in November.

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

Ms Angela Fitzsimons

A/Executive Director
Australian Civil Military Centre

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Upcoming events

1. Regional Consultative Group on Humanitarian Civil Military Coordination for Asia and the Pacific - Annual consultations, December 2022 (Bangkok, Thailand).
2. 2022 Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction - Brisbane, Australia, 19-22 September 2022.
3. CIVMILPOL Workshop - Wellington, New Zealand (proposed for late 2022).

New ACMC team members

In recent months, we have welcomed a number of new team members.

Deahne Turnbull has joined ACMC as **Director - International and Domestic Engagement**. Deahne is a crisis preparedness and response specialist who has transferred to ACMC following an extensive career with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Most recently, Deahne supported a range of Australian whole-of-government response efforts; notably multi-faceted disasters across the Asia-Pacific region in the midst of the pandemic, deploying to PNG as part of Australia's response to the COVID outbreak and as the development lead for Australia's Interim Mission on Afghanistan immediately following Australia's withdrawal. Deahne has had diplomatic postings to Papua New Guinea, Tarin Kowt Afghanistan as a political advisor and Iraq as A/Deputy Head of Mission.

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Wing Commander Andy Anderson has commenced as the **Strategic Communication Advisor** within the International and Domestic Engagement team. Andy has 30 years' experience in corporate communications and stakeholder engagement. He has previously worked as the communication advisor to the Vice Chief of the Defence Force, the Chief of Air Force and International Policy Division. Andy is an Air Force Reservist. His role will be providing communication support for ACMC engagements and outreach.

Janine Bushnell has commenced as the **Executive Officer** at ACMC, directly supporting the Executive Director and providing coordination across the Centre. Janine has worked as Executive Assistant (EA) to three Senior Executive Officers simultaneously at the Nuclear Powered Submarine Taskforce and as EA and Branch Coordination Officer at CASG.

Teneeka Beaudan (Tink) has joined the International and Domestic Engagement Team as an **Engagement Officer** to support outreach activities and the Women, Peace and Security agenda. Tink has come from Ships Division in CASG - Defence, where she was a Coordination Officer covering security, WHS, finance and administration.

Lessons Support to Joint Task Force 629

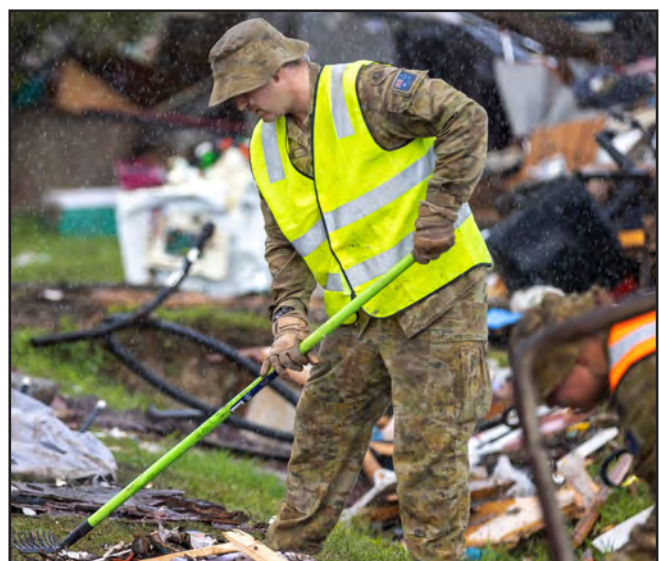
Unprecedented flooding in Queensland and New South Wales during February and March 2022 prompted the two states to request Defence assistance to support their respective State Authorities and emergency response agencies. During the wind down of Joint Task Force 629 (JTF629) support to Operation FLOOD ASSIST 22 there was an opportunity for the Task Force to conduct a review of their processes and procedures during the lead up to and in support of that operation.

In early March Headquarters JTF629 requested ACMC work with the Principal Staff Officers in the Headquarters to conduct a Lessons Collection Activity later that month focusing on the operations of the headquarters and interagency coordination.

The aim of this activity was to identify observations, insights and lessons that could be included as part of a broader lessons collection and analysis activity being conducted by the task force's higher headquarters. In addition to informing the JTF Headquarters, the lessons identified and supporting recommendations have been provided to the Defence Lessons Repository.

The lessons collection activity covered a variety of topics including: administration; information collection gathering;

requirement for a common operation picture across government and non-government agencies; liaison officer requirements; logistics considerations; High Risk Weather Season preparation including planning; exercising; and education and continuation training. Though a wide range of topics were covered during the lessons collection activity; the work undertaken by ACMC in conjunction with the flexible learning approach shown by Headquarters JTF629 will see the task force as a whole, better prepared for the 2022/2023 domestic High Risk Weather Season.



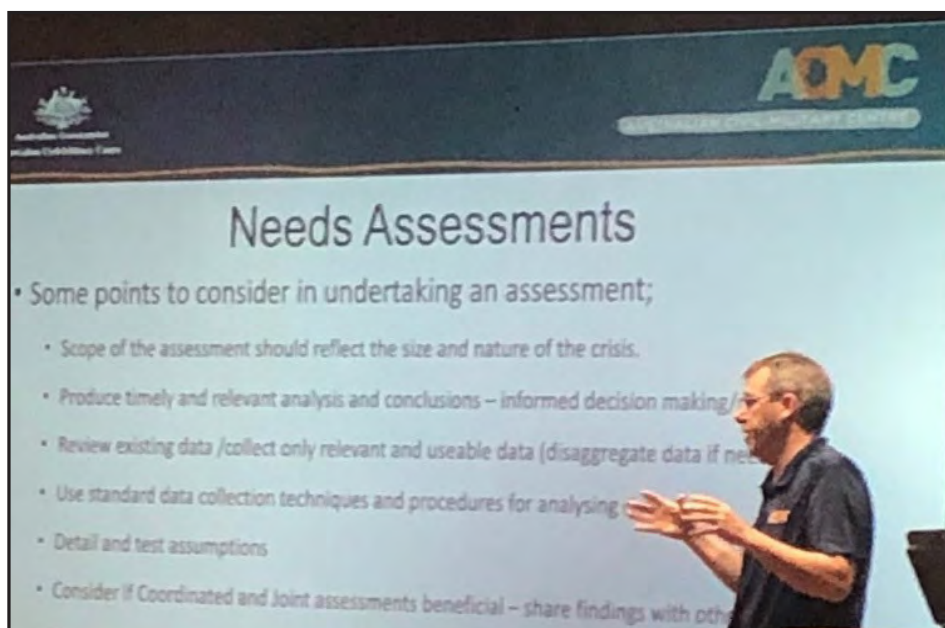
An Australian Army soldier cleans up water-damaged belongings in Lismore, New South Wales, as part of Operation Flood Assist 2022. Photo: Department of Defence

ACMC Support to Exercise Crocodile Response 22

ACMC staff supported Exercise CROCODILE RESPONSE 22 (CR22) during the period 9-19 May 22. Ex CR22 was a combined Academics / Table Top Exercise (TTX) / Field Training Exercise (FTX) activity designed to enhance the ability of Australian, Indonesian and USA military and civilian personnel to respond to a Humanitarian Assistance / Disaster Relief (HADR) situation in the region. The exercise was conducted in the Darwin (Academics / TTX) and Nhulunbuy (FTX) regions.

ACMC coordinated interagency briefs from the Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) and the Australian Medical Assistance Team (AUSMAT) during the Academics Phase. Additionally, Mr Timothy Church (DFAT Advisor to ACMC) and Mr Damian Eaton (Assistant Director, Preparedness) provided a brief on Actors in HADR Operations and Coordination Structures. Following the Academics Phase, Mr Church provided support to Exercise Control during the Execution Phase in order to achieve the following tactical objectives:

1. Build the capacity and capability of Other Government Agencies (OGA) and Non-Government Organisations (NGO) to respond to events using the Australian Government Integrated Approach
2. Build coordination capability between OGA and NGO from Australia, Indonesia and the USA
3. Build capacity and capability for deployment of OGA and NGO personnel
4. Prepare OGA and NGO to work with the ADF and other military forces
5. Promote and exercise the Australian Government Crisis Management Framework (AGCMF)



DFAT Advisor to ACMC, Mr Tim Church conducts a brief during EX Crocodile Response 22

ACMC support for Women Peace and Security

In July 2022, ACMC signed a contract with the Australian Civil Society Coalition for Women, Peace and Security and ActionAid to advance the WPS agenda.

With support from ACMC, the Coalition will facilitate Civil Society Dialogues that focus on how Australia's Second National Action Plan on WPS (2021-2031) can be a tool to bring change in how government and civil society work together to strengthen women's participation to promote the WPS agenda, including contributing to peace processes and conflict prevention. Through civil society consultations, the Coalition will seek to increase the engagement of women from Indigenous, migrant, refugee and diaspora communities in Australia, grounded in skills, practice and lived experience; alongside emerging research and

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policy learnings from WPS experts and advocates, to work towards strengthening domestic engagement in the WPS agenda across national, regional and global contexts. The Coalition will produce several reports including a ‘Civil Society shadow report’ following the release of the Australian Government’s WPS NAP progress report in late 2023.

Through dialogue, grounded in evidence and lived experience, there is an opportunity to ensure that the core tenets of the WPS agenda of participation, protection and prevention are at the forefront of informing Australia’s foreign policy, diplomatic, defence and development efforts.



The inaugural Government-Civil Society Engagement Meeting



Crisis Appreciation and Strategic Planning Practitioner Workshop

Emergency Management Australia (EMA), with support from ACMC, ran a three day Crisis Appreciation and Strategic Planning (CASP) Practitioner Workshop in June 2022.

The CASP employs a structured, systematic methodology to analyse complex scenarios. CASP is a set of tools that allows timely integration of information from multiple sources and the exploration of how governments, not-for-profit and private sector efforts can integrate to provide a unified response to a crisis. The workshop involved 25 Government representatives who have a role in supporting operational and strategic crisis management and planning efforts. Mr Joe Buffone, Director-General, EMA delivered a presentation based on his crisis management experiences.

On the final day, each syndicate presented their CASP project to a panel of senior officials. Feedback from participants highlighted that it was a positive learning experience through the provision of authentic, learning scenarios supported by experienced facilitators and officials.



The Panel - officials from EMA, DFAT, AFP, ACMC and ADF.



Australian Civil Military Centre (ACMC) facilitates Australia’s whole of government participation in Exercise Viking 22 – The world’s largest international computer aided staff exercise

More than 50 nations and 70 civilian organisations participated in the Swedish hosted military and civilian training exercise Viking 22, held in Sweden between 28 March to 7 April 2022. Exercise Viking commenced in 1999 and has been undertaken approximately every 3 years since. Multidimensional, multifunctional, and multinational in nature, it is the largest exercise of its kind worldwide.

The Australian contingent consisted of 7 Australian civil and military officers from the Australian Federal Police, Australian Defence Force and the Australian Civil Military Centre. A Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Stockholm Embassy representative also attended the Distinguished Guest Day held in Enköping during the Exercise. Australian officers undertook various roles including Police Chief of Operations, Protection of Civilians Officer, Military Legal Advisor, Provost Marshal, Senior Civil Affairs Officer and Officer positions within the UN Mission’s Joint Operations Command.

The objective of Viking 22 was to train and educate participants – civilians, military, and police – in planning and coordinating

a UN mandated peace operation and promote mutual understanding and interoperability between civil, military and police components in meeting the challenges of responding to present and future multidimensional crises, through a NATO doctrine and UN peacekeeping and humanitarian operations lens.

Exercise Viking 22 used the Northern Continent scenario, which provided versatility and greater realism to train for complex and current international interventions, including U.N. Multidimensional Peacekeeping Operations, European Union (EU) Political Security and Defence Missions, and NATO Crisis Response Operations.

The countries in the Northern Continent scenario were fictional and were configured to reflect States with multiple security challenges. Regional instability in the form of civil wars, insurgents and humanitarian crises marked the scenario. Weak States were under pressure to maintain law and order and their respective territorial integrity in the face of internal disagreements and growing separatist movements and conflict.



AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT CONTINGENT - VIKING 22

L-R CAPT Angus Cutts, SQNLDR Jason Gillon, AFP Superintendent Phillippa Connell, ACMC Executive Director Angela Fitzsimons, DFAT Foreign Policy Advisor Timothy Church, LTCOL Sharon Ackman and SQNLDR Matthew Daley

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The scenario incorporated challenges and opportunities around the deployment of U.N., NATO, and EU operations and missions, as well as other regional and international governmental and non- governmental actors. It also provided a complex and realistic training environment for the deployment of combined operations and their logistical and communication challenges.

There were several themes addressed during the exercise including Cyber Defence, Gender Policy, Human Rights, Protection of Civilians, Refugee Procedures, Humanitarian Assistance, Coordination and Cooperation, Measures against the Action of Irregular Forces and Organized Crime, and Prevention of Sexual Violence in Conflict. These themes were addressed through simulated events and incidents, presented by the exercise management, which were passed on to the participants.

“As the Legal Adviser to UN Force Headquarters, I advised on the UN mandate, Rules of Engagement and detention, the Status of Forces Agreement and discipline issues, and reviewed CONOPs and operational planning. I was also a member of the Joint Coordination Mechanism, working on the sharing of intelligence and operational information with NATO. In these roles, I worked closely for the Forces Commander (2 Star General) and the Deputy Forces Commander (2 Star General, and the current Chief of the General Staff of the UN Mission in the Republic of South Sudan).”

LTCOL Sharon Ackman

NAIDOC Week Touch Football champions

ACMC’s Andrew Phengrasmy managed the Defence team which won the Grand Final at the annual NAIDOC Week Touch Football carnival in Canberra. There were 25 Departments and agencies competing in this event. The Defence team played 8 games in total and was undefeated!



Andrew Phengrasmy - Top third from left

Upcoming Events

Planning is underway for the annual Regional Consultative Group on Humanitarian Civil Military Coordination (UN-CMCoord) for Asia and the Pacific (RCG) conference, which will occur in Bangkok in December.

ACMC moderated a session of the RCG virtual mid-term consultations on 21 July 2022. Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal and the Philippines provided updates to the forum on recent developments.

ACMC will conduct outreach highlighting Australia’s inter-agency HADR response mechanisms at the upcoming 2022 Asia-Pacific Minister Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction to be held in Brisbane from 19 to 22 September 2022.

Negotiations are underway for a CIVMILPOL Interagency Workshop for the New Zealand Public Service, MFAT and NZDF in Q4. The likely theme is ‘The Spirit of Service.’