



# AUSTRALIAN CIVIL-MILITARY CENTRE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

February 2023

## Australian Civil Military Centre Update

As the new Executive Director of the Australian Civil Military Centre it is my pleasure to bring you the quarterly ACMC stakeholder update. Communication with our stakeholders across Government agencies and civil society is a key priority for me.

Australia's response to the recent major earthquake in Turkiye and Syria has again illustrated the importance of effective civil-military-police collaboration. In 2023, ACMC will continue to work domestically and regionally to further enhance our preparedness and response frameworks. Indo-Pacific engagement will be a priority. I envisage 2023 will be a busy year as many face-to-face interaction opportunities return.

In recent weeks, a number of new staff have commenced at ACMC from from DFAT and the Australian Defence Force. They bring a wealth of experience in multi-agency collaboration, international engagement, humanitarian and disaster relief and capacity building (see below).

Please feel free to forward this update to your colleagues and team members. The next stakeholder update will be in May. If you have any feedback or content suggestions, contact Andy Anderson: [andrew.anderson@acmc.gov.au](mailto:andrew.anderson@acmc.gov.au)

**Nicola Rosenblum**  
Executive Director



ACMC Executive Director Nicole Rosenblum, (centre), with Directors Deahne Turnbull, Wayne Snell and Denis Berak

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## New Staff

### Nicola Rosenblum

Nicola commenced as Executive Director of the Australian Civil Military Centre (ACMC) in January 2023. Over two decades, Nicola has worked across the Australian Government on a broad range of foreign policy, crisis response and national security issues. She served as Australia's High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam, as well as other diplomatic postings to Australia's High Commission in Pakistan and Australia's mission to the United Nations in Vienna.

Prior to taking up the role at ACMC, Nicola was the Deputy Head of the ANU National Security College, managing the delivery of research, international dialogues, workshops and events.

During her career, Nicola has contributed to a broad range of Australian civil-military operations at headquarters and in the field, including consular evacuation from Lebanon (2006); Medical Task Force in Pakistan (2010); Joint Agency Taskforce for Operation Sovereign Borders (2013-14); response to MH17 (2014); medical response to Ebola in West Africa (2014); humanitarian response to Cyclone Pam in Vanuatu (2015); and humanitarian response to Nepal earthquakes (2015).



### Jonathan Ball - Foreign Policy Advisor

Jonathan Ball grew up in Adelaide but started his working career as an infantry officer in the British Army, graduating from the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in 1988. Following five years in the British Army including time as a mechanised platoon commander in the British Army of the Rhine and numerous tours of Northern Ireland, Jonathan returned to Australia in 1992 to continue his military career. Over the next 15 years, career highlights included Commando qualification with 4 RAR (Cdo), UN Military Observer in Timor Leste and sub unit command.

In 2007 Jonathan joined AusAID. Following a posting to Iraq as the First Secretary Development, Jonathan specialised in disaster response which included deployments for numerous disaster responses and a two-year secondment to the Indonesian Disaster Management Agency in Jakarta as their disaster response advisor. He also consulted to the UN as a Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) specialist.

When AusAID and DFAT merged in 2013 Jonathan was employed as Director, Humanitarian Operations, responsible for all of Australia's overseas disaster responses. In 2014 Jonathan deployed to Tacloban in the Philippines following Typhoon Haiyan as the Mission Commander.

Jonathan's other roles have included the Director, CivMil and Stabilisation, DFAT liaison officer to HQ Joint Operations Command and Director, East Africa and Indian Ocean Section. Postings have included Deputy Ambassador in Afghanistan and Deputy High Commissioner in Kenya. In 2022, Jonathan was deployed to Nigeria for 11 months as the Head of Mission.

## Group Captain Andrew Gilbert – Military Adviser

Group Captain Andrew Gilbert joined the Royal Australian Air Force in 1984 and graduated as an Air Traffic Controller in 1985. He has served in Melbourne, Townsville, East Sale, Darwin, Nowra, Canberra, and Alabama (USA).

He is a graduate of the Australian Command and Staff Course and the United States Air Force Air War College. He holds a Bachelor of Science, a Master of Management in Defence Studies, a Master of Strategic Studies, and a Master of Science in Information Technology.

He has worked as an Air Safety Investigator both in Australia within the Directorate of Flying Safety – Australian Defence Force and in Africa with the United Nations. He has been a staff officer within Air Force Headquarters, a Personnel Manager within the Directorate of Personnel – Air Force, an embedded liaison officer within Air Services Australia, a Defence Adviser to the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, a planning officer within Headquarters Joint Operations Command. His most recent postings were as the Director of the Air Power Development Centre and as the Defence Attaché for Ethiopia, Djibouti, Kenya, South Africa, South Sudan and the African Union.

Additionally, he has been the Commanding Officer of the School of Air Traffic Control and has taught undergraduate and post-graduate level courses at the University of New South Wales.



## Asia-Pacific Development, Diplomacy & Defence Dialogue (AP4D)

ACMC supported the launch of a new Asia Pacific Development Diplomacy Dialogue (AP4D) paper: ‘Using all Tools of Statecraft in Practice’ in Canberra on 21 February.

AP4D brings together a variety of practitioners to conduct research and identify practical options to overcome stovepipes across Government and achieve a more integrated approach to international engagement.

ACMC Executive Director Nicola Rosenblum said AP4D’s new paper helps address the challenges of operating in a fast-paced, more competitive globalised world.

“For anyone who has worked in foreign policy there inevitably comes a time when you ponder how we could be working better, smarter, more efficiently and more effectively,” Ms Rosenblum said.

“There are so many elements of the Australian Government, and the broader

Australian community, which are involved in the business of seeking to influence the world around us. ACMC remains committed to fostering research to enhance civil-military-police collaboration.”

Read AP4D’s [new paper here](#).



ACMC’s Nicola Rosenblum speaking at the AP4D Symposium

## 8th session of the Regional Consultation Group on Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination in Asia-Pacific

On 1-3 December 2022, ACMC, in conjunction with the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) and the United States Centre for Excellence in Disaster Management (CFE-DM), hosted the 8th session of the Regional Consultative Group (RCG) on Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination for Asia and the Pacific in Hua Hin, Thailand.

The event brought together 89 participants, representing 17 countries and 20 organisations from around the region to share lessons and best practices in civil-military cooperation in disaster preparedness and response.

The key themes discussed at the event were climate change and adaptation,

humanitarian civil-military-police coordination in the Asia-Pacific region, and protection of civilians in complex emergencies. There was a general agreement that climate change is an existential and national security threat in the region, with impacts for disaster preparedness and response. Participants called for partnership and dialogue to anticipate and address the impact of climate change in a collective manner through networks, information sharing and analysis.

Timor Leste will host RCG 2023 with virtual mid-term consultations scheduled for July and the annual meeting in Timor Leste planned for November 2023.



RCG Women and UN OCHA leadership team, ACMC's Director Deahne Turnbull, third from left bottom row

## Command and Staff Operations Law Course (CSOL)

ACMC's Deahne Turnbull, presented on civil-military-police cooperation in crisis preparedness and response support at the ADF Indo-Pacific Centre for Military Law (IPCML) Command and Staff Operations Law course.

The course was delivered to students from eight countries in the Indo-Pacific region, plus ADF, Defence APS, and legal officers from DFAT and AGD.

This was an important engagement activity for the IPCML to promote the lawful conduct of military operations among regional partners, and to develop and foster international engagement and partnerships in the Indo-Pacific region in accordance with the 2016 Defence White Paper and 2020 Defence Strategic Update.



## Upcoming events

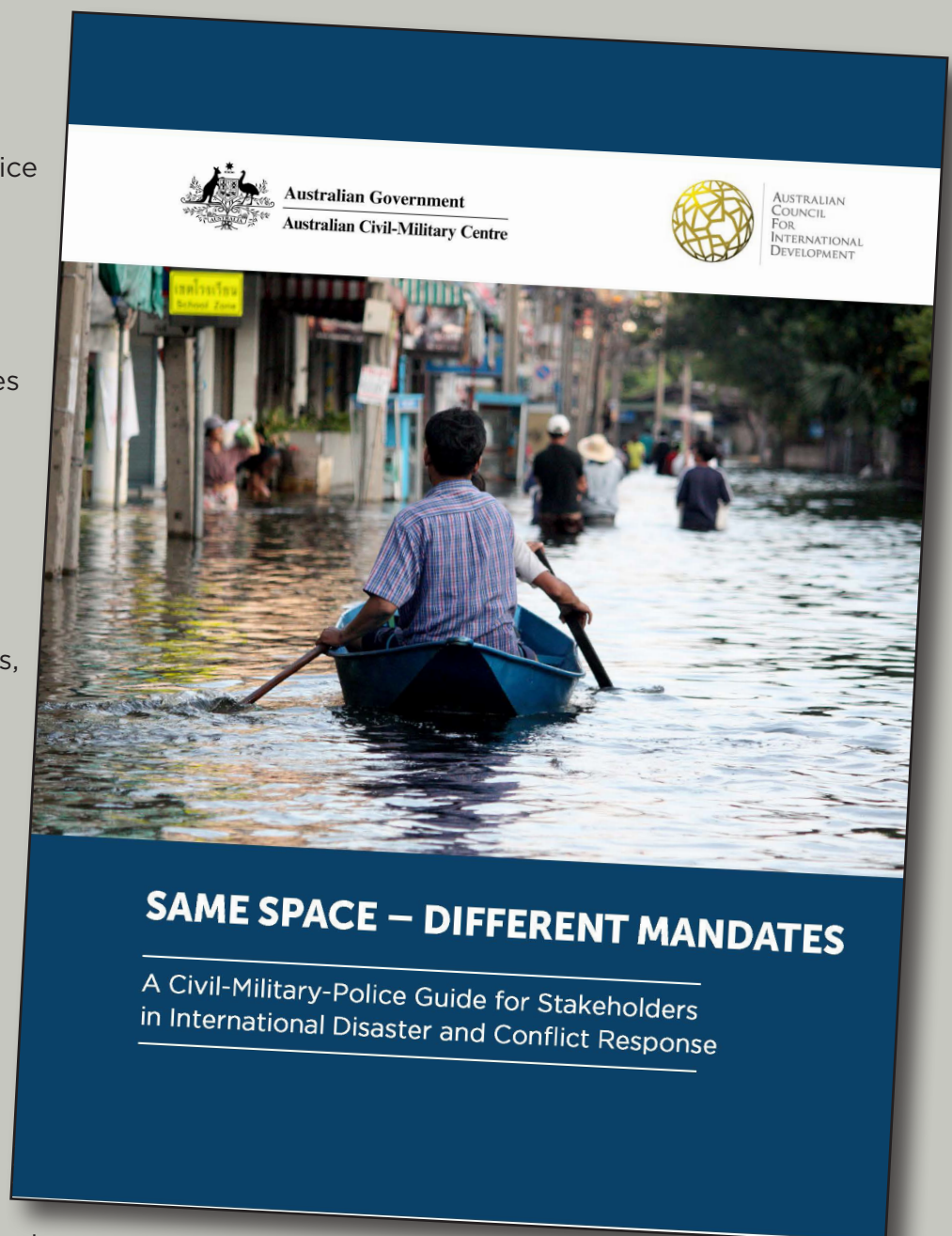
### Same Space, Different Mandates: A Civil-Military-Police Guide, 2023 Edition

ACMC has worked closely with ACFID and an expert panel to revise its flagship publication 'Same Space, Different Mandates'. The new edition is planned for release in March/April 2023.

Since the first edition was released in 2012, challenges such as COVID-19, climate change, and conflict have steadily increased global humanitarian needs. Economic and social disruptions caused by the pandemic have exacerbated existing vulnerabilities. Developed and developing countries are experiencing increased frequency and severity of climate related disasters. Global displacement from disasters and conflict has reached 100 million people. To meet these challenges, humanitarian, military and police planning and response frameworks are evolving.

The updated publication strengthens humanitarian preparedness and responses and promotes productive relationships, dialogue and constructive civil-military-police coordination. It includes:

- an overview of military, police, government agencies, humanitarian organisations and civil society and their responses to disasters and complex emergencies, including pandemics,
- clarifies key terminologies to help create understanding and effective communication,
- highlights the complexities, challenges, limitations, and opportunities of engagement between the stakeholders within the civil-military-police dimension
- shares key considerations for working with civil society and promoting locally-led principled humanitarian response,
- enhances understanding, and encourages the use, of the major agreed civil-military guidelines, and
- provides a set of key references and publications to further inform all stakeholders.



## International Women’s Day 8 March

ACMC is an implementing partner of the Women, Peace and Security National Action Plan. ACMC representatives will attend the UN International Women’s Day (IWD) 2023 official event in Canberra on 8 March.

The IWD 2023 theme is ‘Cracking the Code: Innovation for a gender equal future’, which supports the United Nations 67th Commission on the Status of Women priority theme ‘Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls’.



## Joint Civil-Military Co-operation (CIMIC) Staff Planning Course (JCSPC) March 2023

ACMC is preparing to support the JCSPC, the primary ADF training course for civil-military operations staff officers. It provides participants with a high-level understanding of civil-military, humanitarian planning and engagement considerations at HQJOC and Joint Task Force HQs.

ACMC will present a one and a half day program covering interagency and humanitarian engagement and coordination

in the joint environment. The course is heavily interagency-focused. Guest lecturers will include representatives from ICRC, HQJOC, NEMA, DFAT and AFP, along with several prominent NGOs and there will be a panel discussion on interagency cooperation in Fiji in response to Cyclone Harold. Course participants include representatives from DFAT, AFP, ACMC, HQJOC and partner nations.

