



AUSTRALIAN CIVIL-MILITARY CENTRE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

August 2023

Australian Civil-Military Centre Update

Welcome to the quarterly ACMC stakeholder update. Recently, ACMC has been particularly busy with a number of capacity building activities across the Indo-Pacific region: Fiji, Timor-Leste and Kiribati.

Closer to home, ACMC's Civil-Military-Police Lessons Management Symposium and associated events attracted a strong cadre of practitioners from across Australia and overseas. ACMC also facilitated a Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Civil Society engagement in Canberra ensuring diverse perspectives are shared with government as part of our commitment to implementation of the WPS National Action Plan.

Nominations are open to attend ACMC's Protection of Civilians workshop in Canberra in September. The workshop will focus on approaches to protection of civilians during international and domestic crises and emerging issues in this space.

Nicola Rosenblum

Executive Director
Australian Civil-Military Centre

In this issue

- ✓ Timor-Leste Interagency disaster management workshop
- ✓ Women, Peace and Security civil society engagement
- ✓ Civil-Military Lessons Symposium
- ✓ Fiji National Emergency Response Team (NERT) training
- ✓ Exercise Longreach - Kiribati
- ✓ Civil-Military Humanitarian Coordination Research Symposium

Upcoming events

- ✓ Protection of Civilians workshop
- ✓ Regional Consultative Group annual consultations

ACMC staff news

- ✓ Welcome - Warwick Fry
- ✓ ACMC member in touch football victories



Women, Peace and Security Civil Society engagement



Interagency disaster management workshop – Timor-Leste

In June, ACMC conducted a three-day interagency disaster management workshop in Dili, in conjunction with the Timor-Leste Civil Protection Agency (CPA), the Australian Embassy in Dili and the Defence Cooperation Program Timor-Leste.

The workshop contributed to Australia's support for Timor-Leste's Disaster Management Framework. It was designed to strengthen Timor-Leste capacity to prepare for and respond to natural disasters by enhancing civil-military-police cooperation and featured presentations and scenario-based group discussions.

Workshop participants included representatives from the Timor-Leste CPA, National Police, Ministry of Defence and Defence Force and a number of civil society organisations.



(L-R) Mr Yoga Sofyar, Civil Protection Authority Timor-Leste Advisor, Police Supt. Ismael da Costa Babo, President Civil Protection Authority Timor-Leste, Assistant Director Preparedness ACMC, Mr Damian Eaton, Secretary of State for Civil Protection Eng. Joaquim Jose Gusmao dos Reis Martins, Assistant Director International and Domestic Engagement ACMC, Dr Suanu Ikoro, Ms. Jemma Malcom, First Secretary Defence, Australian Embassy Dili, Major Allon Carter, Australian Defence Cooperation Program, Timor-Leste.

Women, Peace and Security Civil Society Engagement

ACMC, in collaboration with the Australian Civil Society Coalition on Women Peace and Security (The Coalition), conducted an event in Canberra to continue dialogue on the Women Peace and Security (WPS) National Action Plan. The Coalition shared insights and recommendations from their consultations with diverse women across Australia.

Tiana Hippolite shared views from the Pasifika Women's Alliance, emphasising that climate change is a key focus area, as well as the importance of considering Indigenous knowledge. Behishta Anwar shared her experience as an Afghan woman and perspectives on the Afghan community's engagement with the Australian immigration system. She highlighted the importance of asylum-seeking and refugee women's ability to access domestic violence support services. A First Nations perspective was shared by Sandra Creamer AM. Sandra emphasised climate change and the importance of elevating Indigenous science and traditional knowledge in policy and decision-making processes.

The recommendations from the civil society consultations will guide development of a government / civil society roundtable on WPS in late 2023. ACMC plays a key role in facilitating civil society engagement in the development and implementation of Australian Government WPS policies. This event highlighted our commitment to fostering open and constructive dialogue between stakeholders.



Strengthening lessons management capability

In June, ACMC engaged in three lessons management events designed to strengthen civil-military-police lessons capability and interoperability. ACMC hosted a Civil-Military Lessons Symposium and a Workshop for Lessons Practitioners. ACMC also supported the annual Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC) Lessons Management Forum.

“Concurrent and compounding crises in Australia such as the Black Summer fires, widespread flooding and the COVID-19 pandemic, have required extensive civil-military responses. Effective lessons management to support real time and post-event learning has become paramount.” said ACMC Executive Director, Nicola Rosenblum.

The Civil-Military Lessons Symposium was an excellent opportunity to identify civil-military lessons from recent operations and to enhance Australia’s lessons management capability and preparedness for the next high-risk weather season.

Across the five days, there were presentations and panel discussions involving Australian Government, State and Territory agencies and international representatives. The events were important opportunities to strengthen

relationships across lessons practitioner networks in government, non-government and regional counterparts.

ACMC released an updated version of the Foundations in Lessons Management e-learning course, which was developed in consultation with Australian Government and State and Territory emergency management organisations. The course provides an introduction to the lessons management process for people seeking to understand the benefits of evidence-based decision making and organisational learning. It covers knowledge management and lessons management concepts, definitions and processes.

The course is available on [Adele Open](#).





Fiji NERT engagement

In July, ACMC supported the establishment of Fiji's inaugural National Emergency Response Team (NERT), ensuring best practice civil-military-police coordination at both the domestic and international level were incorporated into a national emergency response. Fiji is only the second country in the region to establish a deployable NERT (after the Solomon Islands).

Thirty-five NERT members from nineteen Fiji Government agencies were instructed in disaster and emergency management arrangements, team development and post-event assessment and analysis. A twenty-four-hour simulation exercise tested their ability to respond to a variety of emergency scenarios.

Fiji's Prime Minister the Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka presided over the NERT graduation ceremony. Prime Minister Rabuka presented ACMC's Damian Eaton with a Commemorative Plaque thanking the Australian Government for its valued contribution to the event.



Fiji Prime Minister the Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka, ACMC's Damian Eaton and Acting High Commissioner Stuart Watts

Exercise Longreach - Kiribati

ACMC supported a tabletop exercise (TTX) in Tarawa, Kiribati, which aimed to strengthen emergency preparedness and response.

The two day TTX involved working groups led by members from the Kiribati National Disaster Management Office and other Kiribati ministries. ACMC Assistant Director Lessons, Rob Graham facilitated working group discussions, along with representatives from the ADF, DFAT and AFP, New Zealand MFAT and NZDF. NGO participation included UNOCHA, World Health Organisation, World Food Program and UNICEF.

The exercise, conducted in late July as part of Exercise LONGREACH, identified a development path for National Emergency Operations Centre Standard Operating Procedures and other areas for improvement, including community engagement, information sharing and responder training. LONGREACH is a series of activities conducted by Joint Task Force 637 with other Australian Government and non-government partners to build Pacific Island partner nations' capacity to prepare for major disasters and emergencies, through enhanced planning and civil-military-police interoperability. Previously LONGREACH events have been conducted with Fiji, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu, New Caledonia, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. Later this year, ACMC is planning to support LONGREACH activities scheduled with Papua New Guinea and Tonga.



ACMC's Assistant Director, Lessons, Rob Graham co-facilitated a working group with the Acting Director Kiribati National Disaster Management Office, Takena Redfern as part of JTF637 Exercise LONGREACH 23-1.



Civil-Military Humanitarian Coordination Research Symposium

In May, ACMC's Assistant Director Research Natalie McLean and Civil Society/Humanitarian Adviser Jules Frost participated in the 7th Annual Civilian-Military Humanitarian Coordination Research Symposium and Workshop. The events were hosted by Brown University's Centre for Human Rights and Humanitarian Studies in partnership with the US Naval War College, the World Food Program and the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

The theme of the symposium was, "Adaptive Planning and Crisis Response: Opportunities and Challenges for Civilian-Military Humanitarian Coordination in Future Conflict". The symposium was followed by a two-day workshop that explored current and future opportunities and challenges in civilian-military humanitarian responses, including outbreaks and pandemics, humanitarian access, protection of civilians and climate change. The event attracted nearly 100 practitioners, researchers, and policymakers from around the globe. During the event, ACMC raised awareness of the comparative research conducted in

collaboration with Brown University and Massey University (NZ) on Civil-Military-Police Coordination during National Responses to COVID-19. ACMC also delivered a presentation on its flagship publication *Same Space Different Mandates: A Civil-Military-Police Guide for Stakeholders in International Disaster and Conflict Response*, and co-chaired one of the workshop syndicates.

ACMC's participation strengthened its network of international relationships, bolstering its connections with world-leading researchers and practitioners, including academic, military, government and humanitarian actors.



ACMC's Jules Frost and Natalie McLean

Upcoming events

Protection of Civilians workshop

Nominations are open for the Civil-Military-Police Workshop on Protection of Civilians during International and Domestic Crises, in Canberra on 18-19 September. The workshop is open to public servants (APS5 to EL2), military personnel (O-3 to O-6, E8 to E9), and police and civil society equivalents with career interest or a current role focussed on these issues.

With the changes in the nature of conflict and the increasing severity and frequency of sudden-onset disasters because of climate change, more focus is required on how government, humanitarian actors and civil society can best protect civilians. This workshop will cover:

- the whole-of-government integrated approach to the Protection of Civilians during disasters, armed conflicts and other situations of violence;
- contemporary perspectives of Protection of Civilians; and
- emerging and future-focussed issues.

For further information, contact [Warwick Fry](#).

Regional Consultative Group annual consultations

Preparations have begun for the 9th annual meeting of the Regional Consultative Group (RCG) on Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination for Asia-Pacific, which will be held in Timor-Leste from the 4th to 6th December. In July, the RCG conducted its online mid-year consultations to consider possible themes for the December meeting.

The RCG brings together civil, military and humanitarian stakeholders from across the region to enhance preparedness, coordination and cooperation, especially in countries at a high risk of large-scale, sudden-onset disasters in which military elements are likely to support civil authorities. ACMC, the Centre for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (CFE-DM) and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) serve as co-secretariat for the RCG.

Representatives from the Civil-Military-Police communities who are interested in attending this event please contact [Dr Suanu Ikoru](#)



Staff news

Warwick Fry

Warwick has re-joined the Australian Civil-Military Centre (ACMC), this time as an Assistant Director, Domestic and International Engagement. Warwick had earlier returned to the Department of Defence in January 2022, after 15 years as a policy adviser in the Australian Federal Police (AFP).

In the AFP, Warwick worked on national security and international security policy matters, and supported AFP planning for its deployments, including to Timor-Leste and Solomon Islands following the near-concurrent rioting in 2006, and to other international missions in Sudan/South Sudan, Cyprus, Afghanistan and in the Pacific.

In 2013 and 2014 Warwick was an AFP representative in the UN Security Council (UNSC) Taskforce in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) in Canberra, where he worked on UN peacekeeping, counter-terrorism, kidnap for ransom and policing policy issues during Australia's UNSC term. From 2018 to 2020, Warwick was an AFP Liaison Officer within DFAT, working across all bilateral and multilateral thematic areas on international security and transnational crime matters. His final placement with AFP from 2020 to December 2021 was as the Police Advisor to the ACMC.

Warwick was previously in Department of Defence from 1998 to 2005 working in Strategic Policy Branch (1998-2000) and then International Policy Division, on global issues including Middle East operations (2001-2002), before moving to work on South West Pacific Defence engagement. This period included a secondment to the NZ Ministry of Defence in Wellington from 2003 to mid-2004 before returning to work again on Middle East policy and operations until moving to the AFP in 2005.



ACMC member in touch football victories

ACMC's Andrew Phengrasmy continues to find victory in touch football competitions in Singapore and Canberra.

In June, Andrew was part of an Australian Men's 40s team at the Singapore Touch Football knockout competition. They were undefeated in nine games against representatives from Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Hong Kong and the Philippines. In the Grand Final, Andrew's team played the Piak Piak Bandits (comprising

Australian, Singaporean, and British players) and won 3-0.

In July, Andrew managed the Department of Defence's civilian team in the 19th annual NAIDOC Touch Football competition in Canberra. The tournament included 30 teams from Departments and agencies. The Defence civilian team beat a tri-service team in the final, scoring four tries to one.

