



Australian Government

Australian Civil-Military Centre

# AUSTRALIAN CIVIL-MILITARY CENTRE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

March 2024

## Australian Civil-Military Centre Update

ACMC continues to build civil-military engagement in Australia and the Indo-Pacific. This month we delivered a [South East Asia-Australia maritime cooperation scenario exercise](#) in Melbourne during ASEAN-Australia Week. Closer to home, Foreign Minister Wong launched an ACMC-funded research report on 'Whole-of-Nation Approaches to International Policy'.

Across the Centre, work is underway planning a variety of capacity building and engagement initiatives with Australian, regional and international stakeholders. We will support a UN Civil Military Coordination Course in Fiji in April and deliver another Protection of Civilians course in May. We will also be delivering workshops at the upcoming Global Consultative Group on Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week, and the International Civilian-Military and Humanitarian Research Symposium.

We welcome [Peter Giugni](#), Director International and Domestic Engagement. Peter joins us with a wealth of experience in Government, the ICRC and Australian Red Cross. Recently, we farewelled Michael Ots who has concluded his time as the NEMA Advisor to ACMC. Michael, thank you for all of your support for ACMC and for civil-military coordination.

**Nicola Rosenblum**

Executive Director

Australian Civil-Military Centre

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- ✓ Protection of Civilians course
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- ✓ International Civilian-Military and Humanitarian Research Symposium

## Southeast Asia-Australia Maritime Cooperation Table Top Exercise

Melbourne, Australia

6 March 2024

DELIVERING KNOWLEDGE-DRIVEN, COLLABORATIVE, JOINED UP CAPACITIES

Volume 3 Issue 1

ACMC



## ACMC hosts Southeast Asian maritime experts for scenario exercise

ACMC has hosted Southeast Asian and Australian maritime experts for a scenario exercise in Melbourne during ASEAN-Australian Week.

The interactive exercise examined civil-military cooperation principles using a hypothetical civilian maritime disaster in the region.

Participants considered international and inter-agency coordination during various response phases, including information sharing, search and rescue, evacuation and repatriation, environmental impacts, strategic communication and salvage.

The exercise reflects ACMC's commitment to enhancing civil-military-police coordination and cooperation capacity across the Indo-Pacific region.



## Foreign Minister launches AP4D report

Foreign Minister Senator Penny Wong launched the Asia Pacific Development, Diplomacy and Defence Dialogue (AP4D) paper 'Whole-of-Nation Approaches to International Policy' at Parliament House on 8 Feb 2024.

The report highlighted the importance of engaging a broad range of domestic partners and voices to give Australia a competitive edge in an increasingly complex global environment. The report was funded by ACMC as one of a series of research reports which harness the perspectives of

defence, development and diplomacy communities to tackle complex policy issues.

This paper challenges us to consider what role business and investment, science and technology, education, culture and civil society could play in enhancing Australia's regional and global influence. The report is available at:

[asiapacific4d.com](https://asiapacific4d.com)





## Regional Consultative Group 9<sup>th</sup> annual meeting – Timor-Leste

ACMC supported the ninth annual meeting of the Regional Consultative Group (RCG) on Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination for Asia and the Pacific in Dili, Timor-Leste in December 2023.

The RCG brings together Asia-Pacific civil, military and humanitarian stakeholders and focuses on enhancing preparedness, coordination and cooperation, especially in countries at a high risk of large-scale disasters. It is a forum to share knowledge and experience from recent civil-military activity and collectively consider how we can manage emerging challenges.

The conference included sessions on Technology and Innovation in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief and Climate Change Adaptation and Humanitarian Civil Military Coordination. Fiji Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management Sakiasi Ditoka delivered a special presentation on strengthening national disaster response capability in Fiji. ACMC is the co-secretariat of RCG, along with the United Nations Office for the

Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and the US Centre for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance.

ACMC representatives moderated panels and delivered presentations during the three-day conference attended by 100 representatives from 18 countries. Thailand will host the 10th annual RCG meeting in late 2024.



ACMC's Dr Suanu Ikoro

## ACMC supports AFP International training

ACMC supported the AFP's training program for members deploying to the Pacific.

On 16 February, ACMC delivered briefings on the roles and mandates of government and non-government agencies and actors typically involved in disaster relief operations in the Pacific.

ACMC also facilitated discussion on gender considerations in the provision of assistance and relief, and Australia's commitment to the Women, Peace and Security agenda through a case study based on Tropical Cyclone Harold which impacted Vanuatu, Fiji, Tonga and the Solomon Islands in 2020.



L-R AFP's SUPT Chris Burgess and Jess Avalon, ACMC's Damian Eaton, Jonathan Ball, Jules Frost and Group Captain Andrew Gilbert

## Staff news

Peter Giugni has joined as ACMC as the Director, International and Domestic Engagement. Peter's previous role was Director of Social Policy, Disaster Recovery and Resilience at the National Emergency Management Agency.

Prior to joining the Australian Public Service, Peter worked for the International Committee of the Red Cross in several conflict and disaster response contexts, mostly in the field of civilian protection and humanitarian assistance. Peter's work has taken him to a variety of locations, including Afghanistan, Kashmir, the Philippines, Iraq, Syria, Yemen and Washington DC.

Peter has also worked as a teaching fellow in the Law of Armed Conflict at the University of New South Wales, and as an International Humanitarian Law Officer for the Australian Red Cross. Peter holds a Bachelor of Arts and a Masters in International Human Rights Law and Policy.



Image: Peter Giugni, our new Director of International and Domestic Engagement talking with Jules Frost, ACMC's Civil Society Engagement Adviser

## Upcoming events

### UN Civil Military Coordination Course – Fiji

ACMC, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the Fiji National Disaster Management Office will deliver a UN Civil Military Coordination Course in Nadi in late April. The course is part of ACMC's ongoing engagement and collaboration with OCHA and Pacific national emergency management organisations. The course will foster emergency management networks across the Pacific.

### Protection of Civilians course

ACMC will conduct a Protection of Civilians course on 22-23 May in Canberra.

This course will build participants' understanding of the Protections that Civilians are entitled to in armed conflict and consider how to strengthen these protections in government policy, planning and response processes. It will examine emerging challenges to Protection of Civilians, including how civilians are protected in the maritime, cyber and space domains, the threats that urban warfare poses and how gender should be considered in operational planning. Efforts to mitigate civilians against the impacts of these threats will also be explored.

For further information, contact Warwick Fry: [Warwick.fry@defence.gov.au](mailto:Warwick.fry@defence.gov.au)

### Global Consultative Group on Civil Military Coordination

ACMC will be delivering a workshop and focus groups at the Global Consultative Group on Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination's Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week in early May in Geneva. This annual meeting, organised by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), brings together representatives from Member States, UN entities, Non-Governmental Organisations and Academic institutions as well as other international and regional organisations.

### International Civilian-Military and Humanitarian Research Symposium

ACMC representatives will attend an International Civilian-Military and Humanitarian Research Symposium in the United States in late May, hosted by Brown University and the US Naval War College. ACMC is collaborating with Brown University to conduct research on Civil-Military-Police Coordination during Health Emergencies. In addition to the symposium, ACMC will help facilitate a workshop to engage with academics and collate data for the research project.