



AUSTRALIAN CIVIL-MILITARY CENTRE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

May 2023

Australian Civil Military Centre Update

Welcome to the quarterly ACMC stakeholder update. This quarter the Centre continued to deliver civil-military research, capacity building and regional engagement in support of strengthened responses to crises. Highlights include the launch of ACMC's updated flagship publication, *Same Space - Different Mandates*, capacity building for the Solomon Islands National Emergency Response Team, and support to the Australian Defence Force (ADF) Joint CIMIC Staff Planning Course.

ACMC welcomed the release of the Defence Strategic Review, which reinforced the importance of Indo-Pacific engagement, including through the Defence Cooperation Program. Supporting preparedness in the Pacific through capacity building continues to be a key role for ACMC.

ACMC also had a number of new starters. In March, new Deputy Executive Director, Andy Watts commenced at ACMC. He brings important insights from a New Zealand perspective and his significant experience in multi-agency contexts will be valuable. Welcome also to Denis Berak, our Director -Business Operations and Governance and Nicola Scully who has joined the International and Domestic Engagement team.

Nicola Rosenblum

Executive Director
Australian Civil Military Centre



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Upcoming events

Civil-Military-Police Workshop in Dili,
Timor-Leste



Same Space – Different Mandates 2023 edition

ACMC, in conjunction with the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) has released an update to its flagship publication, *Same Space - Different Mandates*.

“Economic and social disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic have exacerbated existing vulnerabilities. Additionally the Indo-Pacific is experiencing increased frequency and severity of climate-related disasters,” ACMC Executive Director Nicola Rosenblum said.

“Defence forces, police, government agencies and humanitarian organisations often find themselves operating in the same physical space, responding to natural disasters or other complex emergencies. However, a lack of shared understanding over stakeholder roles, responsibilities, cultures, and terminologies can impair effective communication and program implementation.”

The updated *Same Space – Different Mandates* publication emphasises preparedness and promotes productive relationships, dialogue and constructive civil-military-police engagement. It highlights the complexities, challenges, limitations, and opportunities of engagement between civil-military-police stakeholders and shares key considerations for working with civil society and promoting locally-led humanitarian response.

The publication was launched in Canberra on 30 March. ACMC also showcased the publication at a virtual meeting of the Regional Consultative Group on Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination for Asia and the Pacific.

ACMC would like to thank the interagency expert panel involved in supporting the development of this publication and acknowledge the work of Civil Society Engagement Adviser Jules Frost, the driving force for the new publication.

The updated publication is available to [download now](#).



Support to Solomon Islands NERT Induction Course

In early May, ACMC Assistant Director, Preparedness, Damian Eaton, provided facilitator support for the Solomon Islands National Emergency Response Team (NERT) Induction Course in Honiara. NERT is a rapid deployment capability established by the Solomon Islands National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) as part of the National Disaster Management Plan 2018. NERT forms part of the National Emergency Operations Centre and supports disaster assessments and coordination by providing trained personnel capable of deploying to disaster areas at short notice.

The SI NERT is the first capability of its kind to be established by an NDMO in the Pacific. Thirty participants from Government Ministries, Non-Government Organisations and the Private Sector received training in key aspects of multi-sector coordination during the NERT Induction Course.

Damian was a syndicate facilitator during the course and delivered a session on Civil-Military Coordination with Mr Greg St. Pierre from the US Centre for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance. Damian also provided an overview and hardcopies of the recently published *Same Space - Different Mandates* publication.



ACMC support to the SI NERT Induction Course follows on from support provided to Exercise LONGREACH in Honiara in November 2022 and reinforces the strong relationship between ACMC and the SI NDMO. ACMC is planning to return to Honiara later this year as part of Exercise COAST WATCHERS to support interagency preparations for the Pacific Games in November 2023.



Above: Damian Eaton discusses civil-military coordination with his Syndicate during the SI NERT Induction Course

Top: Damian Eaton presents a copy of *Same Space - Different Mandates* to Director Solomon Islands National Disaster Management Office, Jonathan Tafiariki

Consultative Group (CG) on Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination (UN-CMCoord)

In April 2023, Director, International and Domestic Engagement, Deahne Turnbull presented at the Annual Meeting of the Global Consultative Group on Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination.

Deahne spoke about achievements in the Regional Consultative Group (RCG) on Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination for Asia and the Pacific (RCG), for which ACMC is a member of the secretariat. She described the RCG as a key enabler platform for building civil-military-police coordination to support best practice disaster preparedness and response in the Asia-Pacific region. She highlighted key ACMC research and publication efforts, and ACMC's ongoing work with Timor-Leste's newly established Civil Protection Authority, to ensure they are well positioned to respond effectively to disasters, as Timor-Leste's lead agency for disaster management. Timor-Leste is the current Chair of the RCG.

Deahne called on humanitarian actors in the Indo-Pacific to work together to ensure the coordination of the different civil-military-police actors involved in disaster response is not left to chance, because preparedness is important and it needs to be built into our professional education, development and training.

ACMC support to Joint CIMIC Staff Planning Course (JCSPC)

In March, ACMC supported the Joint CIMIC Staff Planning Course, the primary ADF training course for civil-military operations staff officers.

ACMC presented on interagency and humanitarian engagement and coordination in the joint environment. Guest lecturers included representatives from ADF Headquarters Joint Operations Command, NEMA, DFAT and AFP, along with several prominent NGOs and there was a panel discussion on interagency cooperation in Fiji in response to Cyclone Harold.



Australia-Mongolia Defence policy talks 2023

In April 2023, ACMC participated in the 2023 Australia-Mongolia Defence Policy Talks (DPT) in Canberra. The DPT is one of the major defence engagement activities between Australia and Mongolia. ACMC's Director, International and Domestic Engagement, Deahne Turnbull led discussion on civil-military cooperation at the annual strategic dialogue.

Deahne praised Mongolian efforts to enhance civil-military capacity, congratulating them on the establishment of a civil-military coordination unit within its Department of Defence. The delegation identified shared interests and discussed possible opportunities for collaboration, including participation in respective training and exercises.

ACMC Director, Domestic and International Engagement, Deahne Turnbull with Colonel Gandirvaa Chuluunbor, Director, Strategic Policy and Planning Directorate, Mongolian Ministry of Defence.



New Staff

Deputy Executive Director Andy Watts

Andy joined ACMC after a 37 year career in the Royal New Zealand Navy and experience in defence consulting in the Middle East. Andy has commanded two frigates, a research ship and a patrol craft, and has extensive experience in working with New Zealand government agencies on resource protection, border protection, disaster relief, defence diplomacy, law enforcement operations and environmental science programs.

He also worked with a wide range of agency stakeholders in defence capability development. He believes strongly in the need to bring all arms of government to bear on security, peace support, and capacity building both within national borders and in support of peace and wellbeing internationally.



Director Business Operations and Governance Denis Berak



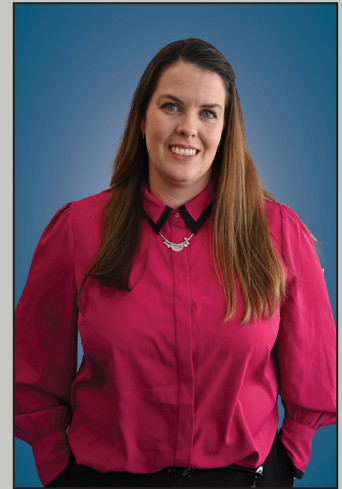
Denis joined ACMC as the Director, Business Operations and Governance in December 2022. He brings more than 20 years' experience in project management and governance in the wider Commonwealth.



Engagement Officer, Nicola Scully

Nicola Scully has commenced as the Engagement Officer in the International and Domestic Engagement Directorate. Prior to joining ACMC, Nicola was the Defence Community Relationship Manager for Defence Health. Nicola worked across the defence and veteran space to deliver education on the Australian healthcare system and manage the sponsorship program. As the Defence Community Relationship Manager, Nicola worked with a diverse group of stakeholders and organisations to deliver high quality engagement events and looks forward to utilising these skills to support the breadth of IDE’s activities.

Nicola is married with two children Ashlee (14) and Chase (12) with her crazy house rounded out by a grumpy old cat, Dexter and two Cavoodle puppies Neo & Dusty.



Upcoming events

Civil-Military-Police Workshop in Dili, Timor-Leste

ACMC will deliver an interagency workshop on civil-military-police coordination in Dili, Timor-Leste in June 2023. The workshop will be conducted in collaboration with the Timor-Leste Civil Protection Authority, the Australian Embassy in Timor-Leste and the Defence Cooperation Program Timor-Leste.

The workshop will aim to enhance civil-military-police coordination in Timor-Leste during disaster preparedness and responses. It will also contribute to Australia’s support for Timor-Leste’s disaster management framework. It will include consideration of Gender, Peace and Security considerations.

Australian Government
Australian Civil-Military Centre

AUTORIDADE DE PROTEÇÃO CIVIL
TIMOR-LESTE

DEFENCE COOPERATION PROGRAM
TIMOR-LESTE

AUSTRALIA

Civil-Military-Police Interagency Workshop

Dili, Timor-Leste

5 - 7 June 2023