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Recent ADF Support Operations to Civil Communities

Lessons - A Strategic Perspective

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AVM Mike Kitcher, AM, DSM
Deputy Chief of Joint Operations



BO27264199

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Perspective

Defence Strategic Review paragraph 6.14:

- To maximise efforts, Australia must take a more focussed and strategic approach.
This means greater coordination between DFAT, Defence and other key government entities*

ADF wishes to normalise
Whole of Government interaction, pre- and post- operation



Scope and Themes

Scope

- Defence operations and activities over the last three years:
 - Operation COVID-19 ASSIST 20-22
 - Defence Assistance to floods, fires, and cyclones domestically and internationally
 - Defence operations in support of civilian evacuations

Process

- How was support requested

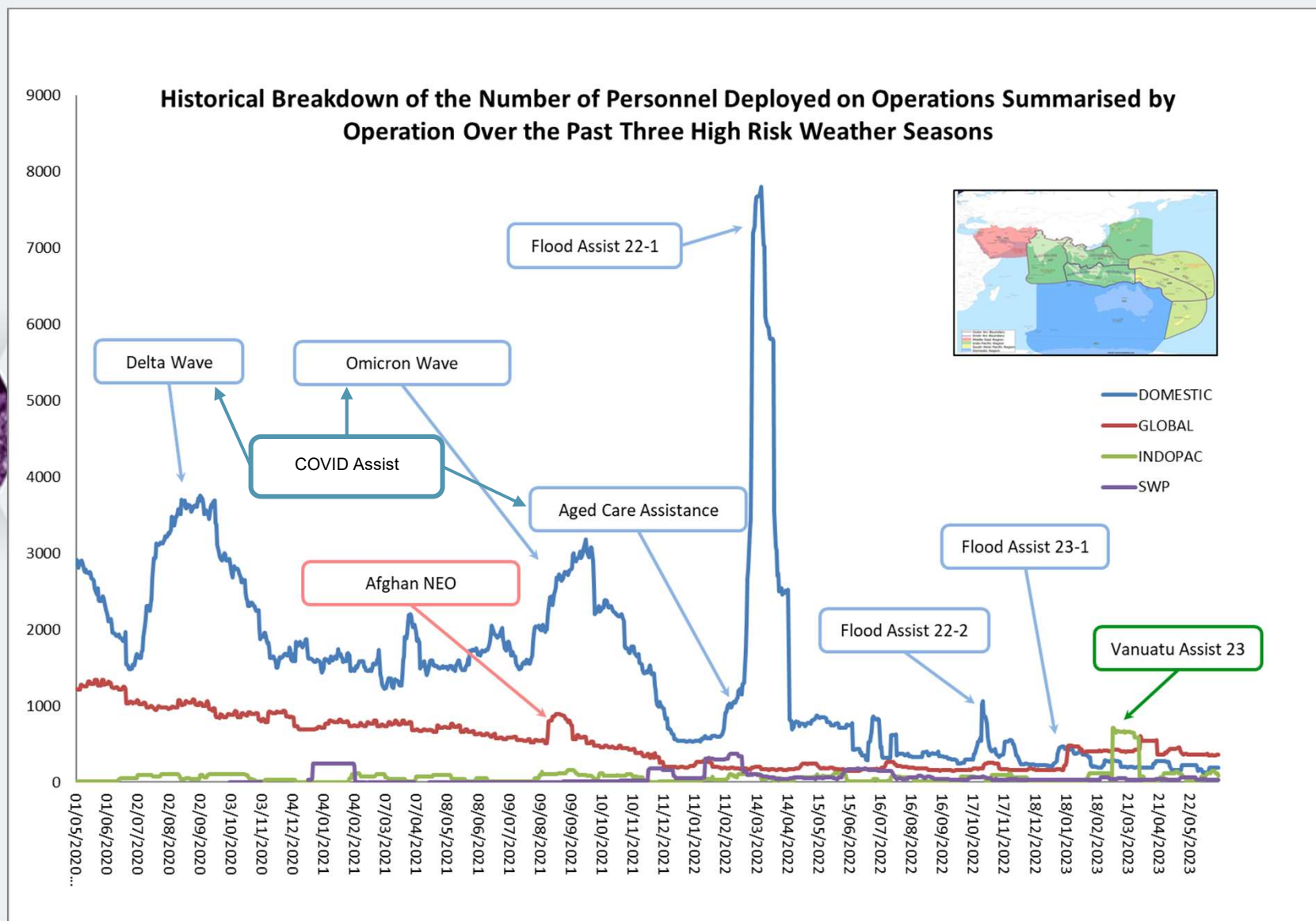
Themes

1. Relationships and Engagement
2. Effect generation
3. Defence implications



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Personnel on Operations – last three years

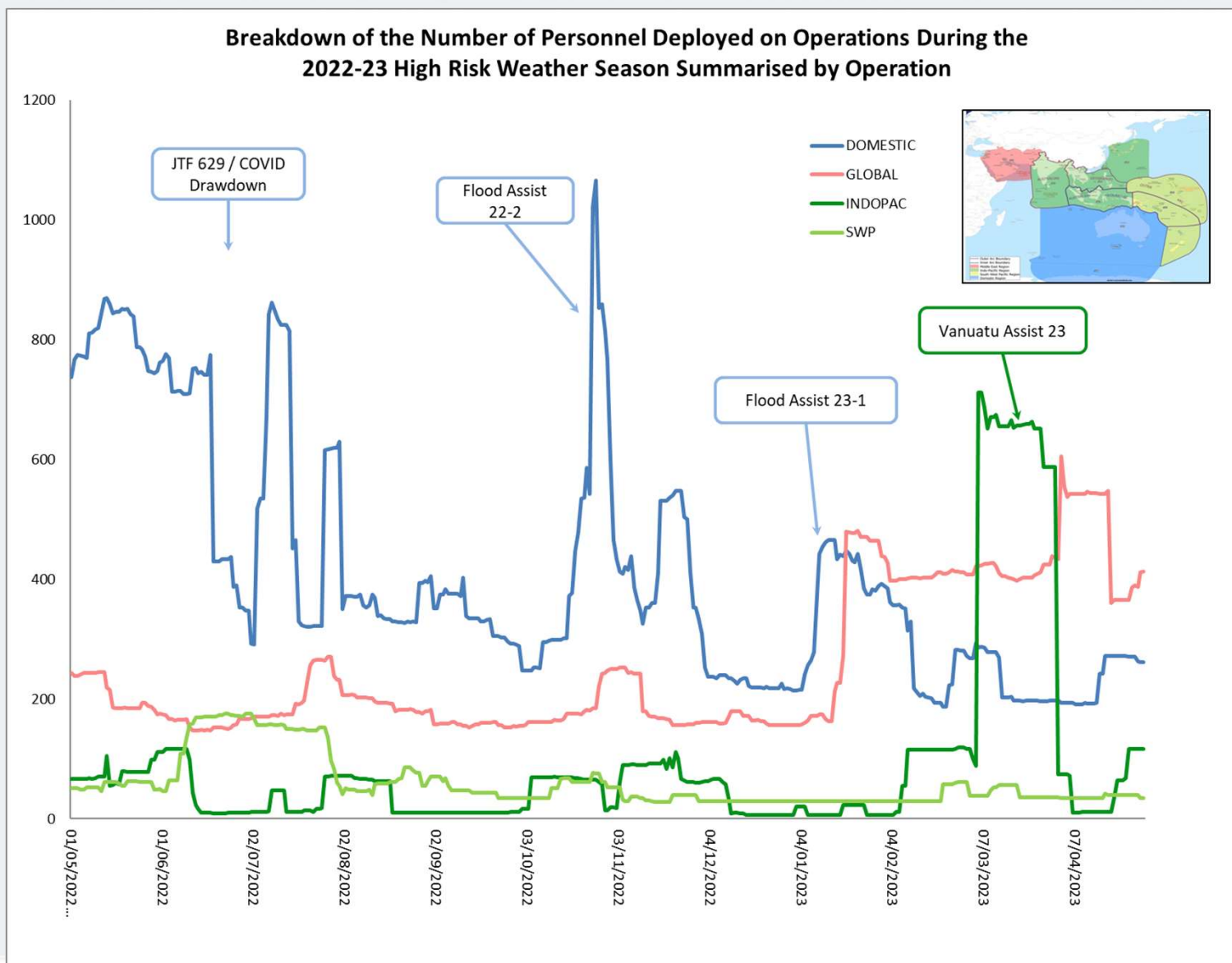


Innovative – Skilled – Agile – People



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Personnel on Operations – HRWS 22/23



Innovative – Skilled – Agile – People



Process

- Domestic jurisdictions request AGCMF assistance through National Emergency Management Agency, guided by Joint Operations Support Staff (JOSS)
- Dept Foreign Affairs and Trade requests assistance through HQADF, guided by local Defence Advisors
- CDF assigns various forces (RAN, Army, RAAF) as Response, not normally for Recovery
- **Headquarters Joint Operations Command** controls all Domestic and International Operations
- Standing HQs plan & respond with assigned forces
 - JTF 629: Domestic Support
 - JTF 637: International Humanitarian Support
 - As required: other operations, eg: evacuations



Theme 1: Relationships and Engagement

- Optimise relationships between Defence and Other Government Agencies
- Part of a team, ADF supports civilian agency
- International Crisis Coordination Centre
- Liaison Officers
 - Trained, authorised, improve info flow
- Engagement with other nations
 - Policies required “in Competition”





Theme 2: Effect generation

- Authorities and delegations
- Notice of time to effect
 - Response options
- Organisational structures
 - State Emergency Management Services
 - Joint Task Force 629 structure
- Emergency Support
 - Emergency Support Forces (ESF)
 - in each State for the High Risk Weather Season.

Early advice or warnings of possible requirement
allows higher efficiency



Theme 3: Defence Implications

- Elevated level of support across multiple years has a long term impact to Defence readiness and capabilities
- Communications across government agencies
- Operational Security for Defence activities
 - Public Affairs media releases have security implications
- Defence can not be “first resort”
- Use of Reserve personnel
 - Implications of Call-for or Call-out
 - Availability is limited





Conclusion

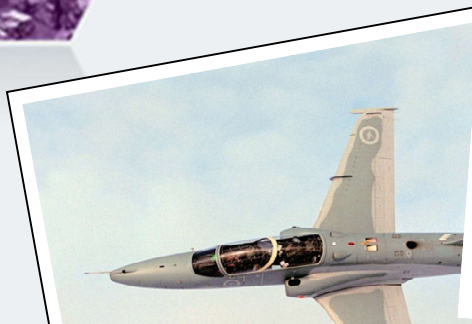
Key Take-aways

- Processes
 - Engage when not in crisis
- Relationships
 - ADF supports civilian agencies
- Time to Effect
 - Consider preparation and movement times
 - Provide warning
- Defence Implications
 - Recent cumulative demands on the ADF





Questions?



ADF wishes to normalise ongoing
Whole of Government interaction, pre- and post- operation