



AUSTRALIAN CIVIL-MILITARY CENTRE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

April 2025

Disaster response workshop in Fiji

ACMC conducted a three-day disaster response workshop at Blackrock Camp in Nadi, with the Republic of Fiji Military Forces (RFMF), Fiji's National Disaster Risk Management Office (NDRMO), and humanitarian and civil society organisations in March.

The workshop included more than 40 participants and was designed to strengthen RFMF Joint Task Force Command (JTFC) disaster preparedness and response arrangements, focusing on how they support civilian-led response.

The workshop featured updates on current and emerging trends in civil-military-police cooperation, the role of civil society, and how different parts of affected communities are impacted by disasters. It explored Fiji's disaster response processes during a table top exercise using a tropical cyclone scenario.

In this issue

- ✓ Disaster response workshop in Fiji
- ✓ Joint Heads of Pacific Security meeting
- ✓ Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Weeks
- ✓ Protection of Civilians Course
- ✓ Supporting the Joint Civil-Military Staff Course
- ✓ Women, Peace & Security Dialogue



Joint Heads of Pacific Security meeting

ACMC supported the Joint Heads of Pacific Security (JHoPS) meeting in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea in March. JHoPS brings together the heads of defence, law enforcement, customs and immigration agencies from across the region to discuss interoperability and operational responses to regional security challenges. ACMC delivered a tabletop exercise on disaster responses in the Pacific.



Image - Department of Defence

ACMC brings Pacific focus to Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week



ACMC joined a panel of experts to discuss challenges in disaster response and civil-military-police coordination in the Indo-Pacific, at Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Week in Geneva. ACMC Deputy Executive Director Dave Proctor spoke about emerging disaster response mechanisms and challenges in the Pacific; alongside representatives from Singapore's Changi Regional Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Coordination Centre, United States Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian

Assistance, Singapore Red Cross and the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management.

Protection of Civilians Course

ACMC delivered Protection of Civilians training in Canberra in April to more than 70 participants from Australian government and civil society and representatives from Indo-Pacific governments and militaries.

The course focused on contemporary Protection of Civilians topics, including the challenges of mitigating harm in urban environments, socially inclusive protection approaches, the importance of protecting cultural property, and how Protection of Civilians enhances the chances of a sustaining peace once a conflict has ended. United Nations' Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and Counter-Terrorism, Professor Ben Saul, delivered the keynote address, outlining how militaries can learn from some of the lessons from recent counter-terror campaigns in preparing for armed conflict.

Visit: acmc.gov.au/why-were-here/protection-of-civilians



Joint Civil-Military Staff Course

In April, ACMC staff provided a one-day training package to the Joint CIMIC Staff Planners Course at the ADF Warfare Training Centre near Newcastle. ACMC presenters outlined key structural and cultural differences between military and civilian actors; international frameworks and guidelines around civil-military coordination (including the Oslo Guidelines on the Use of Foreign Military and Civil-Defence Assets in Disaster Relief); the role of DFAT in providing off-shore support and the role of humanitarian organisations.

Women, Peace & Security Dialogue

The annual Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Dialogue was held in February in Canberra. Around 100 representatives from civil society and the Australian Government discussed how to better enable the inclusion of women in conflict prevention, mediation and peacebuilding activities in our region, and how climate change impacts the WPS agenda.

ACMC's role in WPS is to ensure diverse civil society perspectives are considered by the Australian Government as it implements the WPS agenda. As Australia's WPS National Action Plan enters its fifth year, this Dialogue was an important opportunity for government and civil society representatives to reflect on progress and consider emerging challenges.

The Dialogue also featured WPS case studies from the Pacific, an opportunity for Australian officials and representatives from PNG, Solomon Islands, Fiji, Tonga and Vanuatu to share knowledge and experiences.

Additionally, in April ACMC hosted a webinar on the intersection of gender, peace and cyber security. Panellists included SGT Nigel Wood from the Australian Federal Police, Svetlana Zens from Article 19, and Georgina Naigulevu from Tetra Tech International, who outlined the threats women face in the Indo-Pacific in relation to cyber security, and some programs underway to mitigate them.

Visit: acmc.gov.au/why-were-here/women-peace-and-security



Congratulations to ACMC Deputy Executive Director, David Proctor, whose 37-year military career was recognised in the New Zealand New Year Honours List, being named an Officer in the New Zealand Order of Merit (ONZM).



Well done to ACMC's Damian Eaton, a former Australian Regular Army Lieutenant Colonel, who was awarded the National Emergency Medal for Operation Bushfire Assist 2019/20.



Congratulations also to Mr Tom Biggs, ACMC's Communication Manager who received an Australia Day Achievement Award recognising his dedicated service supporting our public communication and engagement initiatives.



In recent months, we have farewelled a number of staff who have completed their postings/rotations, retired or accepted a new opportunity. We thank them for their great work in the Centre and wish them all the best for the future.