



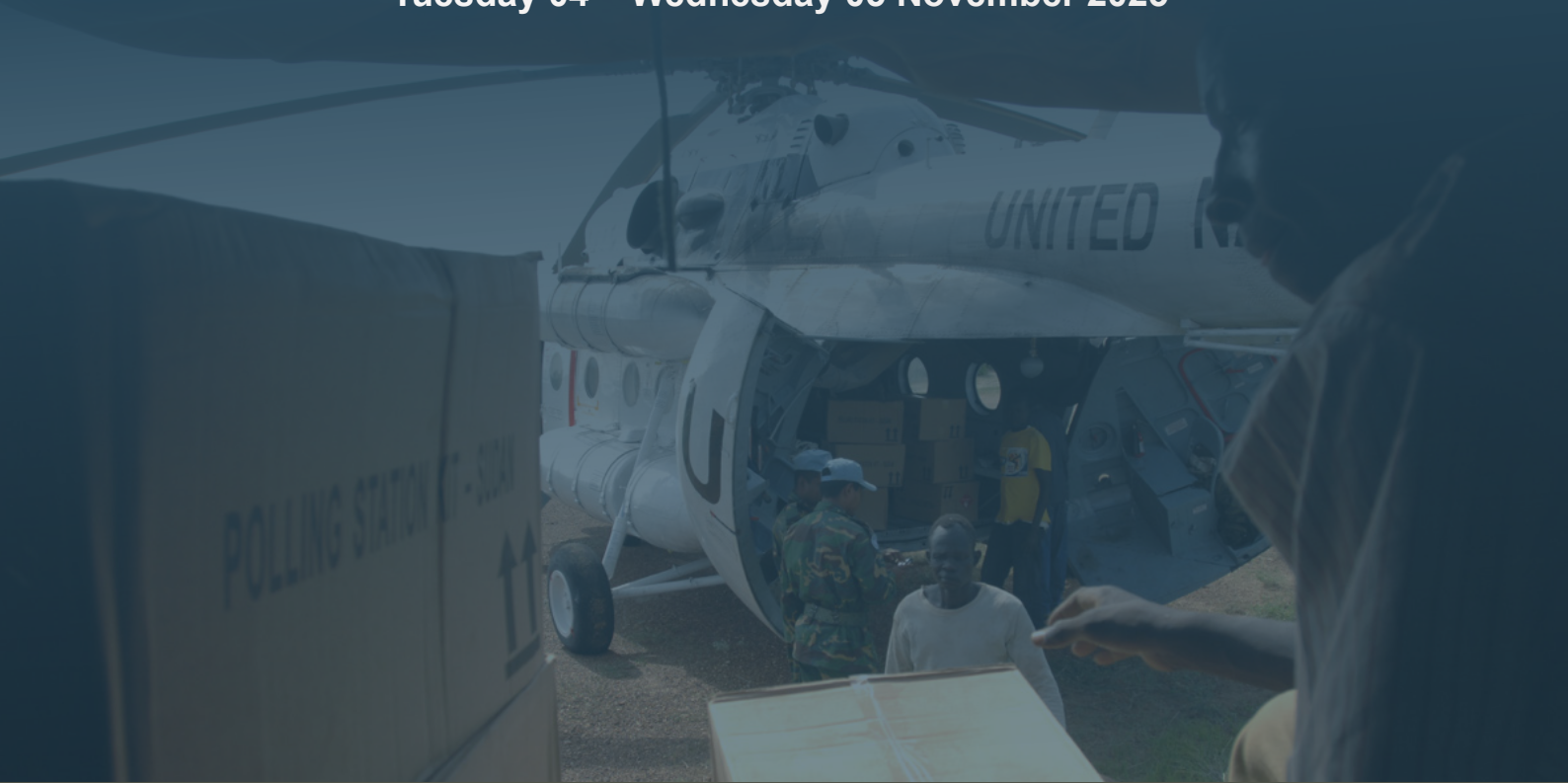
Australian Government

Australian Civil-Military Centre

# TRAINING SEMINAR: PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS IN THE MARITIME DOMAIN

## Joining Instructions & Agenda

Tuesday 04 – Wednesday 05 November 2025



Eureka Room

QT Hotel

Canberra ACT

## OVERVIEW

Welcome to Protection of Civilians (POC) in the Maritime Domain. This two day training seminar, facilitated by the Australian Civil-Military Centre (ACMC), builds upon previous POC trainings. Given the complexities in managing the humanitarian consequences of conflict at sea, this iteration of the seminar will focus on the maritime domain. The seminar will be delivered by Australian and international experts in POC and the maritime domain, using a mixture of lecture-style content delivery, interactive discussions and a simulation exercise.

### The key objectives of this training seminar are:

- develop participants' understanding of the humanitarian consequences of armed conflict, with a focus on maritime warfare, and the laws and frameworks to protect communities impacted by war;
- analyse challenges to protection at sea, including the impact of naval warfare and blockades on civilian populations; how certain categories of persons (the wounded, shipwrecked, civilian seafarers, coastal-based communities) are affected by maritime warfare; and establishing neutral and humanitarian zones at sea; and
- build professional networks across civilian, police and military organisations operating in the maritime domain.

### The following Australian organisations are represented in the seminar through participants and speakers:

- Australian Council for International Development
- Australian Red Cross
- Attorney-General's Department
- Australian Border Force, including Maritime Border Command
- Department of Defence
- Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Department of Home Affairs
- National Emergency Management Agency
- The Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law (University of New South Wales).

### They are joined by international colleagues representing:

- ActionAid Vanuatu
- Center for Excellence in Disaster Management & Humanitarian Assistance
- Foundation for Humanitarian Action at Sea
- International Organisation for Migration
- The International Committee of the Red Cross
- Ministry of Defence, Japan
- Armed Forces of Philippines; and
- The National Police of Timor-Leste (PNTL).

### Seminar protocols

All seminar proceedings will observe the Chatham House Rule. Participants are free to use the information received, but neither the identity nor the affiliation of the speaker or participant may be revealed.

Please ensure mobile phones are switched to silent mode during presentations.

If you need to take or make an urgent call, please move outside the training room to do so.

Cover image: UN Peacekeeping

## **ESSENTIAL INFORMATION FOR ALL DELEGATES**

### **Arrival**

To allow for registration, all delegates are to arrive by no later than 0845 on Tuesday 04 November 2025 for a strict 0900 start. On Wednesday 05 November, please arrive for a prompt 0900 start.

The training seminar will take place at Eureka Room, Ground Floor, QT Hotel, 1 London Circuit, Canberra, ACT 2601. The location of Eureka room is shown at Attachment A. If you have any difficulty locating the Eureka room, please see hotel staff or contact Suanu Ikoro on 0456 179 147 or Andy Phengrasmy on 0421 462 726.

### **Registration**

Please ensure you register your attendance with ACMC staff as you enter the Eureka Room at the QT hotel. Your seating allocation will be displayed at the registration desk. Your seating allocation will be displayed at the registration desk.

### **Disability access**

QT Hotel is wheelchair accessible and a toilet for persons with disability is located on the ground floor.

### **Dress code**

Dress code for all attendees is smart casual. Police and Military participants may choose to wear dress of the day or smart casual.

### **Parking and taxis**

There is extremely limited parking at QT Hotel. Please refer to Attachment B for more information on parking locations. Taxi bookings can be made at the QT Hotel reception desk.

### **Wi-Fi**

Free Wi-Fi is available on-site. Username and password will be circulated upon arrival.

### **Safety and evacuation point**

Please familiarise yourself with the evacuation assembly point marked at Attachment C below. In the case of an emergency, QT Hotel staff will guide all course participants and speakers out of the building.

In the case of an emergency, QT Hotel staff will guide course participants out of the building.

### **Stationery and study materials**

All seminar writing materials will be provided.

### **Meals**

ACMC will cover the cost of morning tea, lunch, and afternoon tea throughout the two-day training. Catering will be provided on-site by QT Hotel staff.

Please advise the ACMC Team by email [acmc.enquiries@defence.gov.au](mailto:acmc.enquiries@defence.gov.au) of any allergies or specific dietary requirements you may have by no later than COB, Friday 31 October 2025.

## Health and first aid

Please advise the ACMC Team if you have any medical conditions at [acmc.enquiries@defence.gov.au](mailto:acmc.enquiries@defence.gov.au). An evacuation briefing will be provided by ACMC staff at commencement of the course.

A designated first aid officer is present in the building between 0830-1700, Monday to Friday. If you are feeling unwell, please notify one of the ACMC staff and we will provide assistance. If you are showing COVID-19 symptoms (including fever, cough, shortness of breath, loss of smell and/or taste), we kindly ask you not attend the training seminar. ACMC will happily accommodate a representative from your organisation to attend in your place.

## Medical emergencies

The national telephone number for all emergency services in Australia including ambulance, fire and police is "000". If you are unsure about whether a person requires an ambulance, you should call 000.

## Hospital

The nearest hospital is Canberra Hospital.

Yamba Drive, Garran ACT 2605

Phone: 02 5124 0000

## Visa and Entry into Australia

To enter into Australia, all overseas visitors must have a valid entry visa or be part of an approved Australian Defence Force travel arrangement. There are some things you can't bring into Australia as a traveller. Australia also has strict biosecurity requirements. Be aware of what you can and can't bring into the country (visit: [Can I bring it in? \(homeaffairs.gov.au\)](http://CanIbringitin.gov.au))

### Course contacts

If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact the ACMC Team.

#### Suanu Ikoro

Assistant Director  
Training, Partnerships and Preparedness

Phone: 02 5108 7094

Mobile/Signal: 0456 179 147

Mobile/WhatsApp: 0456 925 209

Email: [acmc.enquiries@defence.gov.au](mailto:acmc.enquiries@defence.gov.au)

#### Andy Phengrasmy

Visits and Events Manager  
Partnerships and Preparedness

Phone: 02 5109 6422

Mobile: 0421 462 726

Email: [acmc.enquiries@defence.gov.au](mailto:acmc.enquiries@defence.gov.au)

## GENERAL ACMC CONTACTS



[acmc.gov.au](http://acmc.gov.au)



[twitter.com/AustCivMil](https://twitter.com/AustCivMil)



[acmc.enquiries@defence.gov.au](mailto:acmc.enquiries@defence.gov.au)



[facebook.com/AustCivMil](https://facebook.com/AustCivMil)

**Civil-Military-Police Training Seminar  
Protection of Civilians in the Maritime Domain**

**Tuesday 4 November 2025** (Day One Agenda)

MC: Mr Nik Skondrianos

|           |                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                         |
|-----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 0845-0900 | Arrival and Registrations                                                              | Australian Civil-Military Centre (ACMC)                                                                                                                 |
| 0900-0905 | Administration Brief                                                                   | Mr Nik Skondrianos<br>Assistant Director, Partnerships & Preparedness, ACMC                                                                             |
| 0905-0910 | Welcome to Country                                                                     | Aunty Violet Sheridan<br>Senior Nggunuwal Elder                                                                                                         |
| 0910-0920 | Welcome & Introduction to ACMC                                                         | Rear Admiral (rtd) Dave Proctor<br>Deputy Executive Director, ACMC                                                                                      |
| 0920-0950 | Overview of Protection of Civilians                                                    | Mr Tim Anderson, Civil Society<br>Engagement Adviser, ACMC<br>Mr Peter Giugni, Director<br>Partnerships & Preparedness, ACMC                            |
| 0950-1030 | The Law of Armed Conflict                                                              | MAJOR Jeremy Kent, Directorate of<br>Operations and International Law<br>Department of Defence                                                          |
| 1030-1100 | Morning Tea                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                         |
| 1100-1200 | The Law of Armed Conflict at Sea<br>- Applied Case Studies                             | Mr Peter Giugni, Director<br>Partnerships & Preparedness, ACMC                                                                                          |
| 1200-1300 | Lunch                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                         |
| 1300-1315 | The role of the International Committee of the<br>Red Cross in Protection of Civilians | Ms Ann-Marie McCabe, Head of<br>Mission to Australia, International<br>Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)                                                |
| 1315-1400 | Keynote Speaker: Protection of Civilians at<br>Sea during Armed conflict               | Mr Andre Smit, Regional Legal<br>Advisor on Maritime Matters,<br>Asia-Pacific, ICRC                                                                     |
| 1400-1445 | Role of the Maritime Border Command in<br>Rescue and Detention at Sea                  | Commander Chris Mills, RAN<br>Deputy Director of Operations<br>Maritime Border Command (MBC)                                                            |
| 1445-1500 | Discussion, Q&A                                                                        | Facilitated by Rear Admiral (rtd) Dave Proctor<br>Mr Andre Smit, ICRC<br>Commander Chris Mills, MBC                                                     |
| 1500-1515 | Afternoon Tea                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                         |
| 1515-1600 | Rescue at Sea: whole of sector approach                                                | Mr Ralph Mamiya<br>Centre for Excellence in Disaster<br>Management and Humanitarian<br>Assistance (CFE-DM) Foundation for<br>Humanitarian Action at Sea |
| 1600-1615 | Close of Day One                                                                       | Mr Peter Giugni, Director<br>Partnerships & Preparedness, ACMC                                                                                          |

**Civil-Military-Police Training Seminar  
Protection of Civilians in the Maritime Domain**

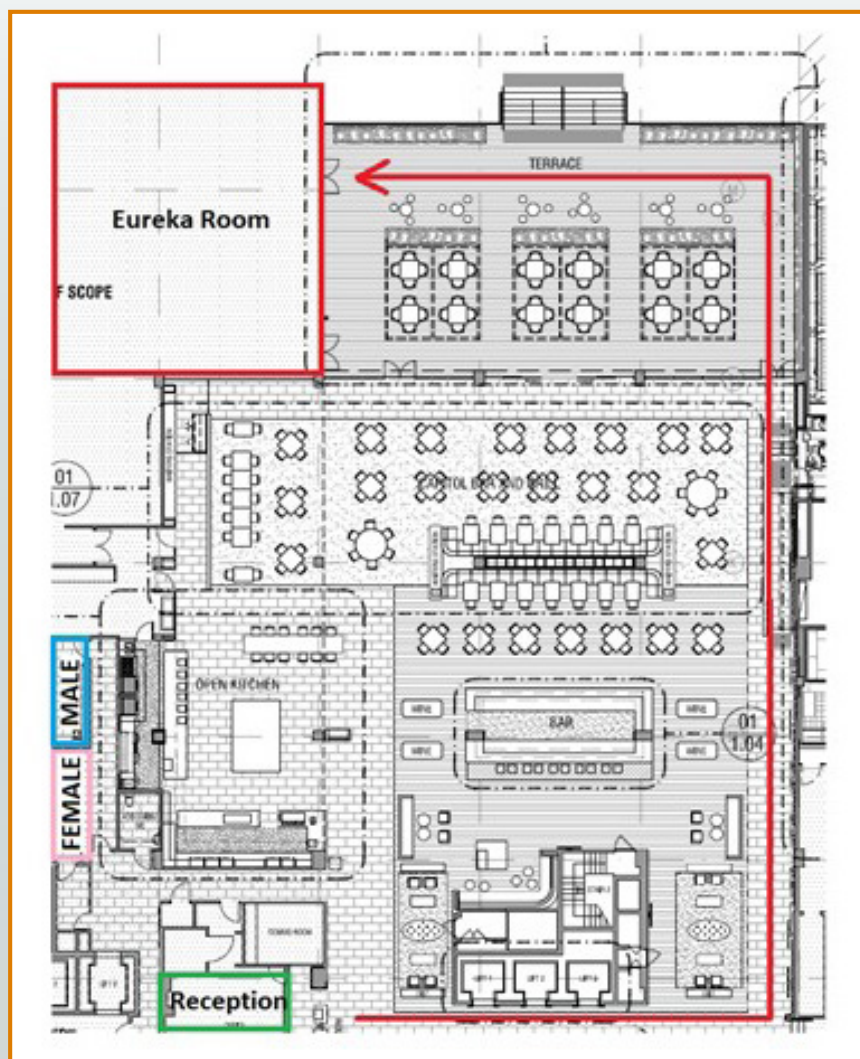
**Wednesday 5 November 2025** (Day Two Agenda)

MC: Mr Nik Skondrianos

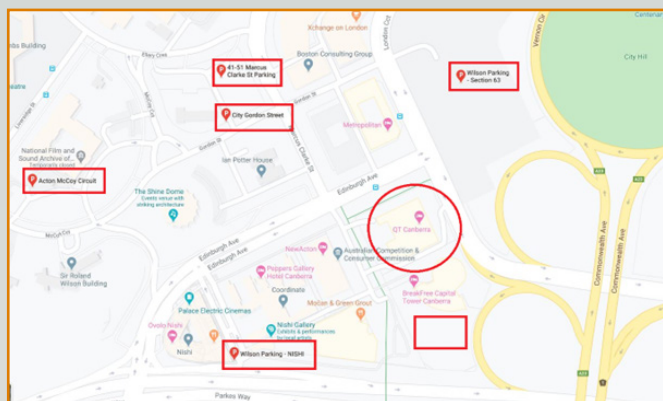
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|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 0845-0900 | Arrival and Registrations                                                                | ACMC                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 0900-1000 | Evacuation at Sea and on land: What are the key Protection issues?                       | Prof Jane McAdam, Director, Evacuations Research Hub Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law<br>CAPT Scott Houlihan, Office of Chief Navy, Department of Defence<br>Questions facilitated by ACMC |
| 1000-1045 | Insights from Humanitarian Support and Search and Rescue Operations off the Libyan coast | Mr Franz Prutsch<br>Program Coordinator, Immigration and Border Governance International Organisation for Migration in Tripoli, Libya                                                                 |
| 1045-1115 | Case Study: displaced persons travelling by sea                                          | Ms Claire Cayzer, Legal Adviser - International Humanitarian Law<br>Australian Red Cross                                                                                                              |
| 1115-1130 | Morning Tea                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 1130-1200 | Gender considerations in Protection of Civilians                                         | Ms Tomoko Matsuzawa<br>Director, Office of International Cooperation on WPS Gender Advisor to Japanese Ministry of Defence                                                                            |
| 1200-1240 | International perspectives                                                               | Panel discussion, facilitated by Ms Nicola Rosenblum                                                                                                                                                  |
| 1240-1300 | Declaration on the Protection of Humanitarian Workers                                    | To be confirmed                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 1300-1340 | Lunch                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 1340-1500 | Simulation Exercise                                                                      | Facilitator: Mr Richard Simpson<br>Simulation Lead, RedR Australia                                                                                                                                    |
| 1500-1520 | Afternoon Tea                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 1520-1630 | Simulation Exercise (continued)                                                          | Facilitator: Mr Richard Simpson<br>Simulation Lead, RedR Australia                                                                                                                                    |
| 1630-1635 | Course Evaluation                                                                        | Mr Nik Skondrianos<br>Assistant Director, Partnerships & Preparedness, ACMC                                                                                                                           |
| 1635-1645 | Closing remarks                                                                          | Ms Nicola Rosenblum<br>Executive Director, ACMC                                                                                                                                                       |



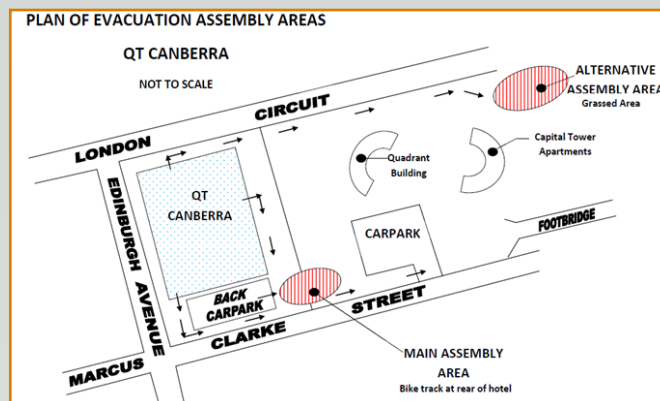
## ATTACHMENT A - EUREKA ROOM LOCATION IN QT



## ATTACHMENT B - PARKING MAP



## ATTACHMENT C QT HOTEL EVACUATION AREA



## Speaker Biographies

### **Aunty Violet Sheridan Senior Ngunnawal Elder**

Aunty Violet Sheridan is a pillar of the community in Canberra and the region. She is a passionate Ngunnawal Elder who shares her cultural knowledge and expertise with the entire community. She generously donates her time at events, schools, and for a broad range of organisations - in a bid to bring all Australians



### **Ms Nicola Rosenblum Executive Director Australian Civil-Military Centre**

In her role as Executive Director ACMC, Nicola Rosenblum brings more than two decades' of experience across the Australian Government on a broad range of foreign policy, crisis response and national security issues. She served as Australia's High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam and other diplomatic postings to Australia's High Commission in Pakistan and Australia's mission to the United Nations in Vienna.



Prior to taking up the role at ACMC, Nicola was the Deputy Head of the ANU National Security College, managing the delivery of research, international dialogues, workshops and events. Nicola has contributed to a broad range of Australian civil-military operations at headquarters and in the field, including the consular evacuation from Lebanon (2006); Medical Task Force in Pakistan (2010); Joint Agency Taskforce for Operation Sovereign Borders (2013-14); response to MH17 (2014); medical response to Ebola in West Africa (2014); humanitarian response to Cyclone Pam in Vanuatu (2015); and humanitarian response to Nepal earthquakes (2015).

Nicola has a Bachelor of Arts in Politics and Government with Honours from Griffith University, and a Graduate Certificate in Humanitarian Leadership from Deakin University. She is married with two daughters.

### **Mr Peter Giugni Director Partnerships and Preparedness Australian Civil-Military Centre**

Peter joined the ACMC in January 2024, coming from the National Emergency Management Agency where he worked as the Director of Social Policy, Disaster Recovery and Resilience.

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.



**Mr Tim Anderson**  
**Civil Society Engagement Adviser**  
**Australian Civil-Military Centre**

As Civil Society Engagement Adviser, Tim contributes to the advancement of national capabilities to prevent, prepare for and respond more effectively to humanitarian crises through enhancing civil-military-police engagement.

A humanitarian with over 20 years of experience delivering strategic, high-impact responses in complex emergencies across Asia, Africa, the Middle East, and the Pacific, Tim has led large-scale food assistance, resilience, and livelihoods programming in some of the world's most challenging contexts. Most recently, Tim was the Head of Programme for United Nations World Food Programme in Afghanistan.



**Major Jeremy A. Kent**  
**Directorate of Operations and International Law (DOIL)**  
**Department of Defense**

Major Kent entered the U.S. Air Force as a Judge Advocate in 2016 after earning a Juris Doctor (JD) (summa cum laude) from Oklahoma City University School of Law and a prior career as an Air Force missile and munitions officer and Marine Corps infantryman. He currently serves in the Asia Pacific Region Military Personnel Exchange Program as the USAF Legal Exchange Officer to the Royal Australian Air Force, embedded in the Defence Legal Directorate of Operations and International Law (Campbell Park, Canberra). In this role, he advises the Australian Department of Defence and all branches of the Australian Defence Force on strategic policy, operations, exercises, and the legal dimensions of international agreements.

His prior assignments include judge advocate positions with Space Launch Delta 45, the world's busiest spaceport, 39th Air Base Wing (Incirlik Air Base, Turkey), defending NATO's southern flank, Headquarters Air Force Special Operations Command and 492d Special Operations Wing, advising special operations forces across the spectrum of competition to conflict and educating and training the broader USSOCOM formation on legal authorities and the law of war; flight commander of the Special Weapons Flight for the 509th Munitions Squadron, home of the B-2 Spirit; and a Marine Corps infantry tour with the Chemical Biological Incident Response Force.

In addition to his JD, Maj Kent holds a Master's in Military Operational Art & Science (Air Command and Staff College), and a Bachelor of General Studies in Leadership (Fort Hays State University). He is a patched graduate of the Schriever Space Scholars Program and published in the Journal of Air Law and Commerce.



**Ms Ann-Marie McCabe**  
**Head of Mission to Australia**  
**International Committee of the Red Cross**

Ms. Ann-Marie (Annie) McCabe has been appointed Head of Mission for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Australia, to begin in December 2025, succeeding Mr. David Tuck, who held the position for the past five years.

Annie currently serves as Senior Donor Relations and Partnerships Manager within the Asia Pacific team of the Resource Mobilization Division at ICRC Headquarters in Geneva. Her appointment marks a natural progression, following nearly three years of close collaboration with the ICRC Regional Delegation in the Pacific and with our partners in Australia, and in the region. FKAG (2013), and MMM (2013) (arbitrary indefinite detention and inhuman treatment of 51 refugees on secret security grounds); Hicks (2016) (unlawful military trial at Guantanamo Bay); and Leghaei (2015) (secret security expulsion interfering in family rights)

Annie brings two decades of leadership experience in integrating strategy, programs and partnerships across the humanitarian, international development, and community sectors, including with the ICRC and the broader Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.



## **Mr Andre Smit**

### **Regional Legal Adviser on Maritime Matters (Asia Pacific) International Committee of the Red Cross**



Andre Smit supports the work of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Asia and the Pacific region from the ICRC Regional Resources Network in Thailand. The role focusses on advancing the regional understanding of international humanitarian law applicable to armed conflict at sea, strengthening the application of other legal protection regimes at sea, supporting the work of other ICRC métiers and ICRC Delegations on related files, and supporting the ICRC institutional thinking on its future positioning in Asia and the Pacific.

His work experience includes practising law; serving as officer in the South African National Defence Force; and service in the South African Foreign Ministry as counsel to Government on International Law.

In the military, he served at unit-, training-, Joint Operations-, and Defence Headquarters-levels retiring as a senior officer supporting policy and international law. He provided operational legal support to operations and supported the force preparation of naval infantry, maritime air operations squadrons (helicopter and fixed wing), the submarine service. The culmination of his time as an instructor was serving as Director of the Departmental Course on International Humanitarian Law.

After military service, as State Law Adviser (International Law) in the foreign Ministry, he fulfilled legal and diplomatic functions (at the level of counsellor), represented the Government in various bilateral and multilateral diplomatic forums, and co-drafted South Africa's submissions to the International Court of Justice.

He was a long-standing member of the South African National Committee on International Humanitarian Law. He lectured at various universities and other training institutions on topics including air and space law, law of the sea, the interfaces of human rights and international humanitarian law in military operations, and at different diplomatic academies with minor publications on related topics of maritime operations

## **Commander Christopher Mills**

### **Deputy Director Operations - Civil Maritime Security JTF639 Maritime Border Command Department of Defence**



Commander Christopher Mills enlisted in the Royal Australian Navy as a Combat Systems Operator in 1999. He served in HMA Ships Tobruk (L50), Brisbane (DDG 41) and Newcastle (FFG 06) and received the Australian Service Medal with Solomon Islands clasp for service during Peacekeeping operations in 2001.

Commissioned as a Midshipman in 2002, he completed officer training at HMAS Creswell in July 2002. Mills graduated from Seaman Officer training in 2005 as a Sub-lieutenant, and was awarded his Bridge Warfare Certificate in HMAS Tobruk (L50). During this posting, he deployed to the Middle East and received the Australia Active Service Medal with Iraq clasp. Mills subsequently served in HMAS Melbourne (FFG 05) as an Officer of the Watch and promoted to Lieutenant in 2007, deployed in support of Operation Resolute, he was awarded the Operational Service Medal.

Mills completed PWO Course in 2008 and joined HMAS Sydney (FFG 03) as the Direction Officer. Following a world cruise as part of Operation Northern Trident in 2009, he commenced PWO Advanced Qualification Course in 2010. On graduation as a PWO Air Warfare, Mills returned to Sydney and played a leading role in the final SM-2 live firing acceptance tests.

In 2011, Mills commenced an AEGIS exchanged posting with the United States Navy and served in the United States Ships Halsey (DDG97) and Wayne E Meyer (DDG108). With the USN, he saw service in support of Operation Enduring Freedom as well as counter piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden. While on exchange, Mills was promoted to Lieutenant Commander and was awarded the United States Navy and Marine Corp Achievement Medal and the United States Navy Commendation Medal.

Returning to Australia in 2014 as an AEGIS instructor, he held the position of Officer in Charge of the - Systems Training School, HMAS Watson. Mills assumed the duties of Executive Officer HMAS Parramatta (FFH154) in January 2018. In 2020, he joined Maritime Operations – HQJOC as an exercise planner. Promoted to Commander in January 2022, Mills was posted to the Maritime Warfare Centre as the Deputy Director Integrated Air and Missile Defence. He graduated from the Australia Command and Staff Course – Remote in November 2022. He resides in Canberra with his wife and three daughters. His interests include history, agriculture, motorsport and baseball.

## **Mr Ralph Mamiya**

### **Director of Research**

#### **Foundation for Humanitarian Action at Sea**

Ralph has more than ten years' experience in the protection of civilians and humanitarian action. He is the former team leader of the Protection of Civilians Team in the United Nations Department of Peace Operations. He is also an advisor with the Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance. He has authored many policy briefs for practitioners and journal articles for academics. Ralph holds a Juris Doctor from Cornell Law School.



## **Professor Jane McAdam, BA, LLB (Hons), D Phil**

### **Scientia Professor of Law**

#### **University of New South Wales**

Professor Jane McAdam AO is Scientia Professor of Law at UNSW Sydney and an Australian Research Council Laureate Fellow. She is the Founding Director of the Kaldor Centre for International Refugee Law at UNSW Sydney, where she leads the Evacuations Research Hub. She is a Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia, the Australian Academy of Law and the Royal Society of NSW, and is an Honorary Associate of the Refugee Studies Centre at Oxford University.



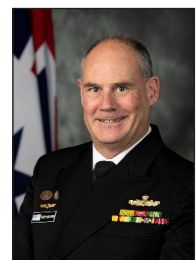
Professor McAdam publishes widely in international refugee law and forced migration, with a particular focus on evacuations and mobility in the context of climate change and disasters. She serves on multiple international committees and for a decade was the joint Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Refugee Law, the leading journal in the field.

In 2021, she was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) 'for distinguished service to international refugee law, particularly to climate change and the displacement of people'.

## **Captain Scott Houlihan CSC CSM**

### **Royal Australian Navy**

Captain Scott Houlihan joined the Royal Australian Navy in 1991 and commissioned as a Maritime Warfare Officer in 1997. A graduate of the Royal Australian Naval College, the Australian Command and Staff Course, and the U.S. National War College, he holds master's degrees in Military and Defence Studies and National Security Strategy.



He has served in a wide range of ships, including two postings to HMAS Choules—first as commissioning Executive Officer and later as Commanding Officer, leading operations such as the Mallacoota evacuation during the 2019–20 bushfires. Ashore, he has held training, capability, and staff roles, and is about to assume the role of Chief of Staff, Headquarters Joint Operations Command. He is married with two children and enjoys AFL, cycling, water skiing, and adventure motorcycling.

## **Mr Franz Prutsch**

**Programme Coordinator, Immigration and Border Governance (IBG)  
Programme  
International Organization for Migration (IOM)**



Mr. Franz PRUTSCH is the Programme Coordinator for the Immigration and Border Governance (IBG) Programme at the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in Tripoli/Libya. In this capacity, he oversees programme implementation and is responsible for coordinating the provision of humanitarian assistance to migrants disembarking in Libya following their return from search and rescue operations.

Mr. Prutsch has over 25 years of experience as a senior police officer in Austria's law enforcement service. His international assignments include serving with the United Nations and the European Union in the Western Balkans (UNMIBH) and Albania (PAMECA), followed by deployments with IOM in the South Caucasus (Azerbaijan), Eastern Africa (Kenya, Somalia), Cairo (Regional Office for the MENA region), and Ukraine. Throughout these roles, he has focused on strengthening governmental institutions in border and migration management policies and operations.

Since his deployment to Libya in 2021, he has been working to provide emergency responses and strengthen collaboration with national Search and Rescue (SAR) entities to improve operations for migrants found in distress after embarking on perilous sea journeys across the Mediterranean. His efforts have since expanded beyond the maritime domain to the vast desert areas of Libya, where he has been building the capacities of the Libyan Border Guards to conduct Search and Rescue in the Desert (SARD), in response to the numerous fatalities among migrants crossing into Libya under harsh and dangerous conditions.

## **Ms Claire Cayzer**

**Legal Adviser – IHL  
Australian Red Cross**



Claire Cayzer is a public international lawyer with more than 15 years' experience working in the field of international protection.

Claire joined the Australian Red Cross International Humanitarian Law (IHL) Program as an IHL Legal Adviser in May 2022. In this role, she has been working with humanitarians and health professionals to build a toolkit of resources to enable them and their organisations to better leverage IHL to enhance humanitarian outcomes and reduce individual, operational, and organisational risks. Prior to joining the IHL Program, from 2020 to 2022, Claire worked as the Coordinator of Australian Red Cross' Immigration Detention Monitoring Program. In this role, she helped to monitor conditions of detention and the treatment of people in immigration detention across Australia.

Claire has also worked as the Refugee and Human Rights Casework Coordinator for Amnesty International Australia, as an Associate Eligibility/Protection Officer for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Somaliland, where she responded to the needs of people fleeing from the conflict in Yemen to Somalia, and in a number of roles relating to refugee protection with the Australian Department of Home Affairs.

She holds a Master of Laws specialising in International Law, a Juris Doctor, a Graduate Diploma of Legal Practice, a Bachelor of Arts, and a Bachelor of Commerce.



## **Ms Tomoko Matsuzawa**

### **Director, Office of International Cooperation on Women, Peace and Security Gender Advisor to Ministry of Defense Japan (JMOD)**



Ms. Tomoko Matsuzawa has more than 20 years of professional experience working on human rights and humanitarian affairs. As of June 2023, she assumed the newly created position of Director for International Cooperation on WPS, and she was assigned as the first Gender Advisor to the Japan Ministry of Defense (JMOD) in April 2024. Prior to her work at JMOD, where she began in 2019 as Director for Defense Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific Region, Ms. Matsuzawa served in conflict-affected countries, including South Sudan, Uganda, Ethiopia as Protection Delegate (2013-2016), and then as Head of Office in Cotabato Mindanao, the Philippines (2016-2018) for the International Committee of the Red Cross. POC in the Maritime Domain Canberra 4-5 November 2025 Joining Instructions & Participants' Brief Page 14 of 21

As an expert in International Human Rights Law, Ms. Matsuzawa previously served as a Human Rights Advisor in the Permanent Mission of Japan to the International Organizations in Geneva (2004-07), thereafter joining the United Nations to lead a project on forced labor and human trafficking in Central Asia (2007-10). She also has experience working in the Parliament of Japan (1994-99) and private sector (1999-2002).

Since 2012, Ms. Matsuzawa has deepened her involvement in the field of international peace cooperation, especially United Nations Peacekeeping Operations (UN PKO). As a Program Advisor to the Secretariat of the International Peace Cooperation Headquarters in the Cabinet Office of Japan, she managed pre-deployment training for Japan Self-Defense Force personnel participating in UN PKO missions in South Sudan, Haiti and the Golan Heights. She was subsequently selected to be a member of the UN Department of Peace Operations Mobile Training Team and in parallel, was invited by the US Department of State's Global Peace Operations Initiative as a Subject Matter Expert. Over the past decade, Ms. Matsuzawa has provided training, with particular emphasis on Women, Peace and Security (WPS), to over 3,000 military personnel in Africa, Asia and Europe. From 2021 to 2023, Ms. Matsuzawa was a Co-Chairperson of the ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting Plus Experts' Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations during which time she drove the creation of a WPS Platform to deepen understanding about WPS among member states.

Ms. Matsuzawa holds a master's degree in international studies and diplomacy from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, where she studied as a British Government Chevening Scholar.

## **Ms Flora Vano**

### **Country Program Manager, ActionAid Vanuatu**



Flora Vano is a Ni-Vanuatu woman leading ActionAid's Country Office in Vanuatu. Flora identifies as a Feminist, Humanitarian and Climate Change Activist. She has extensive experience working in emergency response and advancing women's rights.

Flora plays a critical role in providing leadership for the Women I Tok Tok Tugeta (WITTT) Network – a platform and safe space for diverse Ni Vanuatu women, including women with disability, to organise and strategize on climate action and inclusive disaster response collectively. She has also played a lead role in establishing Women Wetem Weta (WWW), an early warning and disaster response messaging and communication system, that has become a key part of the Government of Vanuatu's emergency response strategy.

Flora has also brought Ni-Vanuatu women's perspectives to various regional and global spaces, including COP 27 /28/29 as Gender Technical Advisor to Vanuatu Government. She also represents in various spaces including Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (APMCDRR). Flora plays a key role in international Court of Justice Advisory Opinion (ICJAO) bringing the communities voices as a witness within her country.

Flora also supports the establishment of WITTT Sunshine, the disability arm of WITTT Network. She also support Ni- Vanuatu Ecosystem Base Approached (VEBA) which enable women leadership and inclusions of women and girls with disability to meaningfully learn and adopt the traditional ways of nature from the marine to the hills in coastal communities.

She is now empowering women to challenge gender norms, inequality and claim their women's right in times of crisis.



## **Mr Richard Simpson**

### **Simulation Lead RedR Australia**



Richard brings over two decades of humanitarian experience across NGOs and the United Nations. As RedR Australia's Simulation Lead, course coordinator and Trainer, he also works independently as a strategic advisor in humanitarian affairs. Most recently, he returned from Palestine, where he served as Director of AIDA, the peak INGO coordination body, leading efforts focused on Protection of Civilians in one of the world's most complex humanitarian contexts.

Prior to this, Richard was Country Director for CARE in Ukraine, and has held senior leadership roles throughout Africa, the Middle East, and Asia. He has also led over 15 humanitarian evaluations for responses such as the Gaza crisis, Cyclone Ida in Southern Africa, the Marawi conflict (Philippines) and Sulawesi Earthquake (Indonesia). Earlier in his career, Richard coordinated international election operations in Afghanistan, and served as Chief of Operations for the Iraqi elections in Iran and Australia. He has also worked with Medicos Do Mundo in Timor-Leste, and lectured in Latin American History at the University of Melbourne.

## **Rear Admiral (rtd) David Proctor**

### **Deputy Executive Director, ACMC**



Rear Admiral (rtd) David Proctor joined ACMC as Deputy Executive Director in May 2024, following a distinguished 37-year career in the Royal New Zealand Navy, culminating as Chief of Navy.

David's military career included various senior postings including Deputy Commander Joint Forces New Zealand, Acting Vice Chief of the Defence Force New Zealand, Chief of Logistics, United Nations Mission In Support of Timor-Leste, New Zealand Senior National Officer in Support of Timor-Leste, Commander Logistics New Zealand and Chief of Defence Strategy and Governance New Zealand.

David is a member of the New Zealand Institute of Directors and is a graduate and fellow of the Centre for Defence and Strategic Studies in Canberra. He has a Masters in Management (Defence Studies) and a Masters in Politics and Policy.

David was the New Zealand Defence Force Gender Equity Champion from 2020 through 2024. He is exploring his māori whakapapa (genealogy), his iwi affiliations are to Ngāti Koriki Kahukura and Te Iwi Heramana. He is married to his best friend, Wendy (Proctor).