



ACMC Protection of Civilians training seminar focusses on maritime domain

ACMC delivered a two-day Protection of Civilians training seminar focussed on the humanitarian consequences of conflict at sea. The seminar featured Australian and international presenters from government and civil society. Discussions focussed on the particular challenges of protecting civilians at sea, including the impact of naval warfare and blockades and the practicalities of establishing neutral and humanitarian zones at sea.

[Protection of Civilians training seminar](#)



Highlighting Protection of Civilians at ACFID Conference

ACMC sought to build awareness and dialogue on Protection of Civilians through a panel discussion at the 2025 Annual Australian Council for International Development Conference in Canberra.

The conference brought together hundreds of representatives from Australian and international NGOs and humanitarian organisations to share insights on emerging trends and challenges in international development under the theme 'Driving transformation in development and humanitarian action'. [ACFID Conference](#)



Sharing knowledge to build disaster resilience

ACMC participated in several important regional activities in Singapore to build civil-military engagement and improve disaster response. Engagements included a Regional Consultative Group on Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination in the Asia-Pacific (RCG) workshop on civil-military coordination in the Pacific; and Exercise Coordinated Response, a multinational table-top exercise led by Singapore's Changi Regional HADR Coordination Centre. ACMC also attended the Sri Rajaratnam School of International Studies' Humanitarian Futures Forum and an ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus Expert Working Group on HADR conference.

[Sharing Knowledge](#)



Ex Bhakti Kanyini AusIndo

ACMC played a key role in Exercise Bhakti Kanyini AusIndo (Ex BKA 2025), a multinational training activity in Indonesia, which aimed to strengthen regional preparedness and resilience in HADR operations. Ex BKA brought together military and civilian emergency management agencies from Australia, Indonesia, Timor-Leste and the United States. ACMC coordinated an academic session with input from a wide range of domestic and international organisations, and supported a three-day tabletop exercise to work through domestic and international responses to a major earthquake scenario.



Indo-Pacific Endeavour Laos

ACMC Foreign Policy Adviser Linda Gellard supported Indo-Pacific Endeavour, Australia's flagship regional engagement activity, in Laos. Engagement in Vientiane included sharing knowledge on humanitarian assistance and disaster response operations and Women, Peace and Security. [Indo-Pacific Endeavour engagement](#)



Ex Pacific Partnership Samoa

ACMC Civil Society Engagement Adviser Tim Anderson supported US-led Exercise Pacific Partnership in Samoa. The exercise in Apia explored a maritime mass rescue operation and oil spill response. Pacific Partnership brings together military and civilian experts to deliver medical, engineering and emergency response support.



Ex Longreach Fiji

ACMC supported regional resilience to natural disasters during Exercise Longreach in Fiji, working alongside our partners: Fiji NDMO, Republic of Fiji Military Forces, Headquarters 1st (Australian) Division and the Pacific Response Group. The exercise featured a National Emergency Operations Centre simulated response to a major tsunami event.



Defence engagements

ACMC facilitated an interagency panel discussion at the Defence Overseas Representation Seminar, providing insights on interagency coordination for ADF and Defence APS members preparing for overseas postings.

ACMC also supported the CIMIC Planning and Operations Course in Adelaide, conducted by Army's 10 Brigade. ACMC representatives provided briefings on civil-military coordination concepts, the International humanitarian system and the Defence Relationship Framework for Operations.



Staff news

ACMC recently welcomed Director Concepts and Capabilities, [Brian Boulton](#) and farewelled Director Partnerships and Preparedness Peter Giugni. We thank Pete for his leadership and work at the Centre over the last two years.



We recognise ACMC's Security and Facilities Manager Paul Neiberding for achieving the milestone of 20 years with the Australian Public Service. Over two decades, Paul has contributed expertise, commitment, and professionalism to support Defence's mission. In his current role at ACMC, Paul continues to make a significant impact. Congratulations and thank you for your continued service!

Wishing everyone a peaceful and safe holiday season and looking forward to working with you again in 2026.

Strengthening Australian and regional civil-military-police capacity and capability to respond more effectively to crises and contingencies