

Welcome to the Centre's Activity Update: June/July 2009

To ensure our partners and interested parties are informed about the Centre's current and planned activities, activity updates will now be available on-line (www.civmilcoe.gov.au). This represents the first of these updates.

Forthcoming Events

- ❖ The Royal United Services Institute (QLD) Incorporated will host a National Security Seminar on 18 July 2009 in Brisbane. Parliamentary Secretary for Defence Support, the Hon Dr Mike Kelly AM MP, will provide the keynote address on Civil-Military Relations. Australian Federal Police (AFP) secondee to the Centre, Superintendent Jamey Bellicanta, will present on the Centre's work and the AFP's International Deployment Group.
- ❖ The Faculty of Law at the University of New South Wales (UNSW) will hold a Symposium on Catalysing the Rule of Law in Afghanistan: Challenges and Opportunities on 3-4 September in Sydney. This event is being co-sponsored by the Centre. Keep a look out on the Centre's website for further details.
- ❖ The Centre continues the development of the *2009 Civil – Military Interaction Seminar (CMIS)* to be held in Sydney from 29 November to 4 December. CMIS will involve an estimated 75 military and civilian personnel from the region, Africa and the Middle East (at Colonel/equivalent level). Speakers and facilitators will include international and Australian practitioners in civil-military relations.
- ❖ The June Partners Meeting for the *Challenges of Peace Operations Forum* was held at the Folke Bernadotte Academy in Stockholm and attended by the Centre. The Centre will host *Challenges 2010* in Queanbeyan from 26-28 April.

Activities

- ❖ The Centre continues to support relevant Australian departments and agencies with the development of the *Conceptual Framework for Civil-Military Collaboration: Conflict and Disaster Management Overseas*.
- ❖ The Centre's partnership arrangement with the Asia Pacific Centre for Military Law (APCML) – an initiative of the Department of Defence and the Faculty of Law at the University of Melbourne – was further strengthened with agreement for APCML to recruit a Research Coordinator. The Coordinator will lead a program focusing on selected legal issues in civil-military engagements.

The Australian Government's Asia Pacific Civil-Military Centre of Excellence supports the development of national civil-military capabilities to prevent, prepare for, and respond more effectively to, conflicts and disasters overseas.

The Centre engages with, and supports, government agencies, non-government organisations and international partners, including the United Nations, on civil-military issues to achieve focused outcomes for the region and globally.

The Centre's first Quarterly Newsletter is under development and will be available on-line in August 2009.

If you would like to provide feedback and/or share information on civil-military events and issues, please email us: info@civmilcoe.gov.au

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- ❖ The first phase of the *World Bank Security and Development Nexus* study, supported by AusAID and the Centre, is nearing completion. Discussions on the study are scheduled for July at the World Bank in Washington and in New York. The World Bank has invited the Centre's Executive Director to join a discussion panel on Development in Post-Conflict States, in Sydney on 14 September.
- ❖ The Centre has been approached by three Australian universities to partner on research proposals relating to the civil-military dimensions of the *Responsibility to Protect (R2P)*. These proposals have been submitted under an AusAID Research Fund for R2P, coordinated by the Asia-Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect (University of Queensland).
- ❖ An audit report by NOETIC Solutions, titled *Review of Civil-Military Training and Education*, was finalised in mid-June and distributed to relevant stakeholders for comment. The report provides recommendations on Australian, regional and UN civil-military training and will help inform the Centre's civil-military training strategy and priorities.
- ❖ In June, the Centre was represented at the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) *Civil-Military Coordination Course* in Bangkok. This was an opportunity to identify core elements of the course that could be replicated in Australian Government and regional civil-military training modules. The Centre is considering an invitation from OCHA to be a franchisee for the course in the Asia Pacific region from 2010.
- ❖ The Centre's Military Affairs Adviser joined AusAID personnel on the *Interagency Actions for Reconstruction and Stabilisation* course sponsored by the US Office of the Coordinator for Reconstruction and Stabilisation (OCRS). This was the first time non-US personnel had joined the course. The Australian participants rated the course highly and it has provided the Centre with useful information to inform the development of the Conceptual Framework.
- ❖ The Centre was represented in the Australian Government delegation to the 2nd Session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction from 16-19 June in Geneva, attending the launch of '*Investing in a Safer Future: A disaster risk reduction policy for the Australian aid program*' on 15 June. The Global Platform was chaired by UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, John Holmes, and attracted senior representation from the UN and international organisations. Around 1,800 delegates from 300 regional/national organisations and governments participated. Side discussions with delegates from the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) have provided ideas for the Centre's research program.
- ❖ The Centre is participating in the *2009 Australia-US Military Exercise Talisman Saber* in Hawaii during July. The Executive Director will lead the Combined Interagency Coordination Group for the Exercise.

Partnerships

- ❖ The Centre continued to develop its relationship with the non-government sector through meetings with Australia's peak NGO body, the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID). ACFID has recently constituted a civil-military task group to provide advice on strategic priorities, and identify key areas for analysis between the Centre and the NGO sector.
- ❖ The Executive Director travelled to New Zealand from 23-25 June to invite input on the Centre's work program and scope possible civil-military research and training partnerships. NZ has been invited to provide a Deputy Director to the Centre. The Executive Director met with the Secretary of the Department of Defence, officials from MFAT, NZAID, Police and Defence, and with several University

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representatives. There was strong interest from the NZ Government and Universities in the Centre's work.

- ❖ The Centre and the UK Stabilisation Unit are developing a partnership arrangement to support the exchange of lessons learned on key civil-military issues, taking forward a commitment under the Australia-UK Strategic Partnership, as agreed between the Prime Ministers of Australia and the UK on 30 March 2009.
- ❖ In July, the Centre's Executive Director will meet with the President and senior staff of the Korea National Defense University in Seoul to advance a partnership arrangement under the Australia-Republic of Korea Enhanced Global and Security Cooperation Action Plan.
- ❖ The Centre's Executive Director participated in the *Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response Multilateral Conference and Tabletop Exercise* in Seoul from 8-10 July 2009. Participants included representatives from the US, Korea, Japan, Australia, the UN and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).
- ❖ The Centre has recently held discussions with the US Army Peacekeeping and Stabilisation Operations Institute, the National Defence University academic directors and the Center for Complex Operations, and the United States Institute for Peace, to consider potential US-Australia collaboration initiatives in the civil-military space.

Issues of Interest

- ❖ The Centre provided a briefing, through the Department of Defence, to the 19 June 2009 public hearing of the Senate Standing Committee for Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade *Inquiry into the Economic and Security Challenges Facing PNG and the Islands of the South West Pacific*. In response to the Committee's request, information was provided on the Centre's mission, work program and structure.
- ❖ The Centre is supporting the establishment of Australia's Deployable Civilian Capacity (DCC), which is led by the DCC Taskforce within AusAID. The DCC follows an idea identified during the Australia 2020 Summit.
- ❖ The Centre's Executive Director spoke to the Multinational Interoperability Council (MIC) on 17 June 2009, describing the functions of the Centre and how the Centre contributes to strengthening a whole-of-government/nation approach to stabilisation operations. MIC member nations include Australia, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

Key Visitors and Appointments

The Centre hosted a number of visits and held discussions with a range of stakeholders and partners during June. Some of these included:

- Secretary of the Attorney-General's Department, Mr Roger Wilkins AO, and First Assistant Secretary, Mr Martin Studdert;
- Mr Tim George, Australian High Commissioner to Pakistan (pre-assignment);
- Mr James Batley, Australian High Commissioner to Fiji;
- MAJGEN Paul Alexander, Commander Joint Health, Australian Defence Force;
- Mr Eden Cole, Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces;

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- Mr Alastair McKechnie, Director, Fragile and Conflict-Affected Countries Group, World Bank;
- Mr Nigel Roberts, 2010 World Development Report Co-Director, World Bank; and
- Japanese National Institute of Defense Studies delegation.

News on Staffing

- Ms Christine Holroyd (Defence) is the Centre's Business Management Assistant.
- Ms Rebecca Shrimpton, the Centre's Liaison Officer at the Australian Defence Force (ADF) Warfare Centre/Peacekeeping Centre at Williamstown, is supporting complementarity in Defence training and doctrine development activities between the Centre and these establishments.
- The pool of ADF Reservists for the Centre is growing. Three Reservists are currently undertaking Reservist days at the Centre, working on a range of training and management activities.
- Secondees from the Attorney-General's Department commenced at the Centre in early July. Mr Peter Thomson is the Coordinator of the Governance and Rule of Law Team, and Ms Michelle St Clair has joined the Training, Education and Doctrine Team.
- Mr Guy Ruediger from the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade will take up the role of UN and International Engagement Adviser at the Centre from 3 August.
- The Centre and the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) are finalising the details of the NGO Adviser position at the Centre.