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ADF Enhances Pacific Ties in 2025 Partnership Exercise

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The Australian Defence Force (ADF) successfully completed its deployment to Papua New Guinea for Exercise Pacific Partnership 2025, strengthening regional ties through disaster preparedness and community engagement.

The Australian Defence Force (ADF) wrapped up a successful mission in Papua New Guinea as part of Exercise Pacific Partnership 2025, a United States-led humanitarian and disaster relief initiative in its 21st year. Five ADF personnel, including specialists from the Australian Civil-Military Centre (ACMC) and Pacific Response Group, joined forces with military

personnel from Canada, Germany, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Singapore, and the United Kingdom aboard the USS Pearl Harbor and USS John L Canley. The deployment, which included stops in Port Moresby and Lae, focused on disaster management workshops, medical outreach, and community engagement, reinforcing Australia's commitment to regional stability, according to a Defence Australia statement.

Chief of Joint Operations Vice Admiral Justin Jones emphasized the exercise's importance, stating that ADF personnel, both civilian and military, significantly contribute to natural disaster resilience in the Indo-Pacific. "The ADF's involvement ensures stronger regional cooperation and preparedness," he told Mirage News, highlighting the mission's role in fostering trust and interoperability among partner nations. Activities included school repairs in Lae and tailored medical exchanges in Port Moresby, aimed at bolstering Papua New Guinea's capacity to handle crises. The U.S. Pacific Fleet Band, joined by ADF musicians, also performed at community events, strengthening local ties.

The exercise, running through November 2025 with planned visits to the Federated States of Micronesia and Samoa, underscores Australia's strategic focus on the Pacific. Colonel Matt Churchward, Deputy Mission Commander, noted the mission's aim to build lasting bonds, saying collaborative efforts prepare nations for swift crisis response, per GlobalSecurity.org. The ADF's contribution aligns with its broader Pacific engagement, including past support for Papua New Guinea's landslide relief in May 2024, where Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) aircraft delivered critical supplies.

This deployment highlights the ADF's role in enhancing regional security without overextending resources, a priority amid global tensions. As Exercise Pacific Partnership continues, Australia's involvement signals a pragmatic approach to fostering stability and preparedness in the Indo-Pacific, balancing national interests with cooperative defense efforts.