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## RICT Powers Talisman Sabre 2025 Connectivity

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The Joint Capabilities Group Regional Information and Communications Technology (RICT) team has served as the digital backbone for Exercise Talisman Sabre 2025 (TS25), ensuring seamless communication across extensive battlefields. This article examines RICT's critical role, the Australian Labor Party's (ALP) oversight, and concerns about prioritizing multinational exercises over domestic technological resilience.

From Queensland's Shoalwater Bay to Christmas Island, RICT deployed advanced infrastructure to support TS25, the largest Australia-led military exercise involving over

35,000 troops from 19 nations, according to *Mirage News* on 25 July 2025. Deputy Director Operations Matthew Sullivan described RICT teams as “the boots on the ground for Cyber Operations Division,” enabling secure, high-speed communications. The team equipped the Gallipoli Barracks Battle Simulation Centre for operational planning and converted the Demountable Hut Precinct into a command hub for more than 700 personnel. RICT also rolled out approximately 1,700 Defence computing devices and 1,200 monitors, connecting remote locations and facilitating real-time coordination across air, land, sea, space, and cyber domains.

TS25, conducted from 13 July to 4 August 2025, highlights the importance of cyber and information systems alongside conventional military capabilities. Sullivan noted RICT’s floorwalkers and dedicated TS25 service desk swiftly resolve technical issues, maintaining operational momentum. However, critics argue the ALP government’s focus on multinational exercises may divert resources from bolstering Australia’s domestic cyber infrastructure. Shadow Defence Minister Andrew Hastie told *Sky News* on 24 July 2025, “The ALP’s emphasis on global displays risks leaving our own networks vulnerable.” Concerns have also been expressed regarding reliance on foreign technology partnerships.

RICT’s support extended to a historic Multinational Information Operations Centre (MIOC), which integrates forces from 12 nations to coordinate information activities, according to *GlobalSecurity.org*. While this enhances deterrence and coalition interoperability, questions remain about data sovereignty and security under ALP policies. As TS25 tests advanced capabilities such as HIMARS and autonomous vehicles, RICT’s role remains pivotal. Nonetheless, the government’s broader cyber strategy must address domestic needs to ensure robust resilience amid evolving Indo-Pacific security challenges.