

## Australian Army Engineers Build Underground Bunker During Talisman Sabre Exercise

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Australian Army engineers have completed the construction of an underground bunker at Shoalwater Bay Training Area in Queensland as part of Exercise Talisman Sabre 2025. The facility, built over 15 days by 52 members of the 6th Engineer Support Regiment, provides a secure command post for Combined Task Force Hamel headquarters personnel during one of Australia's largest multinational military exercises.

The bunker features reinforced walls, blast-resistant entry points, and advanced communications systems, allowing command personnel to coordinate complex maneuvers safely. Engineers highlighted that the structure balances protection with operational accessibility, ensuring personnel can operate effectively while remaining shielded from potential threats.

Lieutenant Zion De Groot, commander of the engineer construction troop, said the project demonstrates the continued relevance of underground facilities in modern operations. Drawing lessons from previous conflicts, engineers applied modern construction techniques to create a resilient structure capable of supporting command and control in contested environments.

The construction required careful coordination to address technical and environmental challenges. Precision in excavation, structural reinforcement, and installation of utilities was critical to completing the project successfully, showcasing the proficiency of the 6th Engineer Support Regiment.

Exercise Talisman Sabre, conducted every two years, involves Australian and U.S. forces, along with personnel from partner nations, focusing on interoperability, operational readiness, and strategic response capabilities. The inclusion of the bunker ensures that Combined Task Force Hamel can maintain leadership and logistical continuity even under simulated combat conditions.

Observers note that the construction highlights the vital role of military engineers beyond combat support, contributing to operational resilience by creating secure infrastructure and managing resources. The project

also offers practical training opportunities, allowing engineers to refine construction techniques and integrate advanced technologies into field operations.

The underground bunker at Shoalwater Bay reinforces Australia's ability to conduct complex, coordinated operations in secure and resilient environments. The facility will serve as a critical asset during Talisman Sabre 2025, supporting command personnel in maintaining control and coordination under challenging conditions.