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Talisman Sabre 2025 Tests Battlefield Medical Response

August 4, 2025

– Categories: Defence & Security



Exercise Talisman Sabre 2025 showcased advanced battlefield medical capabilities, with multinational teams in Queensland coordinating triage, treatment, and evacuation for simulated casualties.

Exercise Talisman Sabre 2025, held from July 13 to August 4 across northern Australia, demonstrated cutting-edge battlefield medical operations, integrating military and civilian health systems to manage simulated casualties, according to a report by the Australian Department of Defence on August 4, 2025. In a key scenario, a wounded soldier in northern Queensland was swiftly transported by military ambulance to a field hospital near the exercise's simulated "war zone." Medical teams, assessing the need for a blood transfusion, stabilized the patient before evacuating them to a tertiary civilian

hospital. This seamless operation was overseen by the Combined Joint Theatre Medical Component (CJTMC), a multinational task force coordinating care across the exercise's vast theatre.

The CJTMC, comprising personnel from the Australian Defence Force (ADF), United States military, and other partner nations, operated 24/7 to provide clinical coordination, medical logistics, and patient regulation. Air Commodore Nicole dos Santos, commander of the CJTMC, emphasized the component's patient-centered and mission-focused approach, stating that it synchronized health support across five civilian health jurisdictions and 22 Defence training areas, as reported by Mirage News. The exercise, the largest ADF-coordinated medical effort since the Vietnam War, supported over 40,000 personnel from 19 nations, utilizing more than 25 garrison health facilities and 40 deployed medical units, including aeromedical evacuation assets.

The integration of military and civilian systems was a focal point, with senior civilian health officials, led by Rear Admiral Sonya Bennett, visiting the CJTMC at Enoggera Barracks in Brisbane. Professor Alison McMillan, Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer at the Department of Health, Disability and Ageing, praised the opportunity to observe the health network's integration, noting its potential to enhance national health resilience, according to the Department of Defence. At Queensland's Shoalwater Bay, the Australian Army's 2nd Health Brigade operated a Role 2 Enhanced (Role 2 E) Hospital, showcasing advanced triage and treatment capabilities.

Talisman Sabre 2025 involved extensive multinational cooperation and months of planning, including comprehensive medical support systems. The exercise focused on enhancing the ADF's operational readiness and interoperability with partner forces, serving as a platform for future joint military engagements.