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## Reserve Soldier Drives Key Role in Talisman Sabre 2025

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Army Reserve Private Sian O'Connor, from Melbourne's 4th Combat Service Support Battalion, drives critical logistics in Darwin during Exercise Talisman Sabre 2025, showcasing the scale of Australia's largest military training.

Private Sian O'Connor, an Army Reserve soldier from the 4th Combat Service Support Battalion (4CSSB), has taken on a pivotal role driving a Rheinmetall MAN 40M truck at Robertson Barracks in Darwin during Exercise Talisman Sabre 2025, as reported by Defence Australia on July 30, 2025. Traveling from Maygar Barracks in Melbourne's

northern suburbs, O'Connor joined thousands of troops from 19 nations for Australia's largest bilateral military exercise, held from July 13 to August 4. The exercise, involving over 35,000 personnel, tests interoperability through live-fire drills, amphibious landings, and homeland defense operations across northern Australia and Papua New Guinea, according to the Australian Defence Force (ADF).

O'Connor highlighted the high tempo of the exercise, noting that her unit ensures timely delivery of supplies to 4th Brigade elements. "It's our job to make sure everyone gets what they need when they need it," she told Defence Australia, emphasizing her dual role in logistics and security. This marks her first deployment to Talisman Sabre, offering a rare chance to observe international forces, including those from the United States, United Kingdom, and Canada. "Seeing how different nations operate compared to the ADF is a unique experience," she added. Her unit's rehearsals for homeland defense, including counter-drone tactics, prepared them for the exercise's complex scenarios, per Mirage News.

The exercise, launched aboard HMAS Adelaide, underscores Australia's commitment to regional security amid global tensions, with the ADF denying it targets any specific nation, as stated by US Brigadier-General Shannon Smith to WA Today. Critics, including peace activists, have protested Talisman Sabre since 2007, citing environmental concerns, though the ADF implements environmental briefings to mitigate impact, per Wikipedia. O'Connor's contribution highlights the vital role of reservists, with the 2nd (Australian) Division integrating seamlessly with regular forces, as noted by Corporal Matthew Hines to CONTACT magazine. As Talisman Sabre 2025 continues, it reinforces Australia's defense readiness and international partnerships.