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## ADF Showcases Health Resilience at Talisman Sabre 2025

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Rear Admiral Sonya Bennett, Surgeon General of the Australian Defence Force, led senior civilian health officials to observe the advanced medical operations of Exercise Talisman Sabre 2025's Combined Joint Theatre Medical Component, highlighting national health resilience.

On August 4, 2025, Rear Admiral Sonya Bennett, Surgeon General of the Australian Defence Force (ADF), escorted senior civilian health officials to Enoggera Barracks in Brisbane to witness the Combined Joint Theatre Medical Component (CJTMC) during Exercise Talisman Sabre 2025 (TS25), as reported by the Department of Defence. The visit showcased the ADF's integration of military and civilian health systems, demonstrating a robust theatre health network supporting over 40,000 personnel from

19 nations. The CJTMC, operating 24/7, coordinated clinical care, medical logistics, and patient evacuations across five civilian health jurisdictions and 22 ADF training areas, marking the largest ADF-coordinated medical effort since the Vietnam War.

Air Commodore Nicole dos Santos, CJTMC Commander, emphasized the mission's focus on patient-centered care and operational efficiency, stating that the component synchronized health support across regions, serving as a critical link between military and civilian systems, per Mirage News. The network included over 25 garrison health facilities and 40 deployed medical units, with half of the ADF personnel being reservists who brought regional expertise. Rear Admiral Bennett highlighted the exercise's role in supporting the National Defence Strategy by ensuring persistent health support for deployed forces, noting that such integration enhances operational effectiveness and saves lives, according to the Department of Defence.

Brigadier Louise Martin, Commander of the 2nd Health Brigade, underscored the field hospital's capabilities at Shoalwater Bay, delivering primary, emergency, and surgical care with multinational teams from Australia, New Zealand, Japan, Singapore, and the United States, as cited by Mirage News. The visit, attended by representatives from the Health Chief Executives Forum and the National Blood Authority, reinforced the importance of military-civilian collaboration, a priority echoed at the recent NATO Chiefs of Military Medical Services (COMEDS) meeting in Washington, DC. Critics of the Albanese government's defence funding argue that such exercises, while vital, strain resources amid budget constraints.

During Talisman Sabre 2025, the CJTMC coordinated medical support involving multinational partners and detailed planning. The exercise focused on enhancing health resilience and interoperability among participating forces.