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Kapyong Command Post Drives Talisman Sabre 2025 Success

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During Exercise Talisman Sabre 2025, held from 13 July to 4 August, the 3rd Brigade's Battle Group Kapyong Command Post at Shoalwater Bay played a central role in coordinating battlefield operations. The command post served as the hub for synchronizing armoured vehicle movements, drone surveillance, and infantry manoeuvres across a dynamic training environment involving more than 35,000 personnel from 19 nations.

Australian Defence Force personnel at the site directed combined arms operations to clear enemy positions at Objective Emerald. The effort involved indirect fire, armoured advances, and breach teams securing the objective overnight. The following phase

launched a brigade-level assault toward Line Creek Junction, demonstrating Australia's capacity to conduct coordinated, large-scale ground operations.

Major Joseph Smith, Operations Officer for Battle Group Kapyong, explained that the command post enabled rapid, informed decisions through close integration with reconnaissance units such as Battle Group Eagle. He noted that real-time intelligence was critical in maintaining battlefield tempo and operational pressure. The exercise also featured advanced platforms such as first-person-view drones and optionally crewed M113 vehicles equipped with either mini-guns or .50 calibre machine guns, reflecting the ADF's modernization efforts.

Captain Karl Helmuth of the Philippine Marine Corps observed the command structure and planning processes as part of his role in the exercise. He highlighted the value of participating in multinational coordination and the importance of adaptability in rapidly shifting scenarios. The command post's coordination with allied forces helped enhance interoperability and tactical readiness.

Talisman Sabre 2025 marked the largest iteration of the biennial exercise, reinforcing Australia's defence partnerships with countries such as the United States, Canada, and New Zealand. While critics have called for greater investment in autonomous systems, the success of Battle Group Kapyong's command operations underscored the importance of integrated planning and joint capability in maintaining regional stability. The exercise demonstrated Australia's continued commitment to a secure, rules-based Indo-Pacific.