

## **Australian Defence Force Gender Advisors participate in Exercise VIKING 18**

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A small contingent of ten Australians from the Australian Defence Force, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Australian Civil Military Centre and Australian Federal Police attended Viking 18 in Sweden earlier this year. Viking 18 was a computer assisted exercise hosted by the Swedish Armed Forces and supported by the United States as a strategic partner. It is one of the world's largest multi-national civil-military exercises and provides the principle collective civilian-military-police training for peace operations and crisis management for many countries.

One of the key themes for the exercise was the Protection of Civilians, incorporating gender, sexual based violence, humanitarian assistance, mass migration, internally displaced persons and human rights issues. The conduct of the exercise highlighted the networking that must be conducted with the various agencies that get involved in peacekeeping processes, and allowed personnel to experience and observe an extremely unique joint mission environment. Participation in Viking 18 provided insight into the different policies and procedures of the key players to global missions including North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, United Nations and a number of Non Government Organisations.



Captain Stacey Porter and LCDR Kylie McNamara pictured her with their international colleagues provided support to the Exercise as Gender Advisors