

Pacific Partnership 2018

Pacific Partnership 2018 (PP18) was the 13th year of this mission and included more than 800 military and civilian personnel from the US, Canada, United Kingdom, Australia, France, South Korea, Peru, Sri Lanka, Malaysia and Japan. The PP18 mission was conducted in ports in Indonesia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and Vietnam.

The ADF Gender Advisor's role was to ensure that WPS was considered and included in all countries and events of the mission, and ensure engagement, participation, empowerment and capacity building of women and children in each mission country.

To achieve this, the Gender Advisor provided country specific gender analysis and foreshadowed potential arising issues to the mission Commander and planning staff. Training and education on WPS concepts was delivered to PP18 personnel. The Gender Advisor produced and presented six different gender related presentations on background to WPS, how ADF utilisation of WPS in operations, and tailored gender considerations for HADR for each country. These were presented at on-board events to 200 personnel, at a specific WPS Symposium which the Gender Advisor co-lead in Indonesia with local military and civilian groups such as UN Women Indonesia, and at HADR Symposiums in the other mission countries.

The major impact of the Gender Advisor on PP18 was an increase of knowledge and awareness across the entire mission population on the WPS agenda and how this can be input in military operations, especially focussing in HADR. Prior to this mission very few members had even heard of the WPS agenda, NAP or a Gender Advisor.



Royal Australian Air Force Flight Lieutenant Chloe Lowndes (left), Gender Advisor, hands out prayer rugs to Indonesians for afternoon prayer during a women's peace and security symposium aboard Military Sealift Command Hospital ship USNS Mercy.