

PMSC28004 *Fundamentals of Counter-terrorism and Operational Medicine*

Term 1 - 2025

Profile information current as at 12/03/2026 10:57 am

All details in this unit profile for PMSC28004 have been officially approved by CQUniversity and represent a learning partnership between the University and you (our student). The information will not be changed unless absolutely necessary and any change will be clearly indicated by an approved correction included in the profile.

General Information

Overview

The threat of terrorism is a high priority for state and federal law enforcement, emergency response organisations and emergency medical response services in Australia. This unit will provide you with foundational knowledge of the definition of terrorism and the terrorism threat landscape in Australia. You will explore terrorist organisations, ideologies, capabilities, and attack vectors, as well as the complexity of contemporary layered attack methodologies used by these groups. Additionally, you will analyse and discuss Australian open-source federal and state policies related to the response, management, and recovery from terrorist attacks. Finally, you will be introduced to the intersection of operationalised medical and emergency response.

Details

Career Level: *Postgraduate*

Unit Level: *Level 8*

Credit Points: *6*

Student Contribution Band: *8*

Fraction of Full-Time Student Load: *0.125*

Pre-requisites or Co-requisites

There are no requisites for this unit.

Important note: Students enrolled in a subsequent unit who failed their pre-requisite unit, should drop the subsequent unit before the census date or within 10 working days of Fail grade notification. Students who do not drop the unit in this timeframe cannot later drop the unit without academic and financial liability. See details in the [Assessment Policy and Procedure \(Higher Education Coursework\)](#).

Offerings For Term 1 - 2025

- Online

Attendance Requirements

All on-campus students are expected to attend scheduled classes – in some units, these classes are identified as a mandatory (pass/fail) component and attendance is compulsory. International students, on a student visa, must maintain a full time study load and meet both attendance and academic progress requirements in each study period (satisfactory attendance for International students is defined as maintaining at least an 80% attendance record).

Website

[This unit has a website, within the Moodle system, which is available two weeks before the start of term. It is important that you visit your Moodle site throughout the term. Please visit Moodle for more information.](#)

Class and Assessment Overview

Recommended Student Time Commitment

Each 6-credit Postgraduate unit at CQUniversity requires an overall time commitment of an average of 12.5 hours of study per week, making a total of 150 hours for the unit.

Class Timetable

Regional Campuses

Bundaberg, Cairns, Emerald, Gladstone, Mackay, Rockhampton, Townsville

Metropolitan Campuses

Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth, Sydney

Assessment Overview

1. Written Assessment

Weighting: 30%

2. Written Assessment

Weighting: 30%

3. Written Assessment

Weighting: 40%

Assessment Grading

This is a graded unit: your overall grade will be calculated from the marks or grades for each assessment task, based on the relative weightings shown in the table above. You must obtain an overall mark for the unit of at least 50%, or an overall grade of 'pass' in order to pass the unit. If any 'pass/fail' tasks are shown in the table above they must also be completed successfully ('pass' grade). You must also meet any minimum mark requirements specified for a particular assessment task, as detailed in the 'assessment task' section (note that in some instances, the minimum mark for a task may be greater than 50%). Consult the [University's Grades and Results Policy](#) for more details of interim results and final grades.

CQUniversity Policies

All University policies are available on the [CQUniversity Policy site](#).

You may wish to view these policies:

- Grades and Results Policy
- Assessment Policy and Procedure (Higher Education Coursework)
- Review of Grade Procedure
- Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure
- Monitoring Academic Progress (MAP) Policy and Procedure - Domestic Students
- Monitoring Academic Progress (MAP) Policy and Procedure - International Students
- Student Refund and Credit Balance Policy and Procedure
- Student Feedback - Compliments and Complaints Policy and Procedure
- Information and Communications Technology Acceptable Use Policy and Procedure

This list is not an exhaustive list of all University policies. The full list of University policies are available on the [CQUniversity Policy site](#).

Previous Student Feedback

Feedback, Recommendations and Responses

Every unit is reviewed for enhancement each year. At the most recent review, the following staff and student feedback items were identified and recommendations were made.

Feedback from SUTE

Feedback

Students stated that the lecturer displayed high knowledge and teaching ability within the unit's content domains.

Recommendation

Feedback was encouraging for the first iteration of this unit. Recommend that the unit continue to be updated and of a high standard to ensure students have access to the most contemporary information related to the field of study.

Unit Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, you will be able to:

1. Critically analyse state and federal policy related to the response to a terrorism-related attack
2. Develop an understanding of contemporary terrorist organisations' ideologies and prevalence in Australia
3. Evaluate how emerging technologies are likely to contribute to novel terrorist threats
4. Identify a typology of contemporary terrorist tactics and attack modalities
5. Operationalise a medical response plan to a terrorism-related attack based on critical elements of specific attack modalities.

Alignment of Learning Outcomes, Assessment and Graduate Attributes

— N/A Level ● Introductory Level ● Intermediate Level ● Graduate Level ● Professional Level ● Advanced Level

Alignment of Assessment Tasks to Learning Outcomes

Assessment Tasks	Learning Outcomes				
	1	2	3	4	5
1 - Knowledge	●	●	●	●	
2 - Communication					●
3 - Cognitive, technical and creative skills		●			
4 - Research		●	●	●	
5 - Self-management					
6 - Ethical and Professional Responsibility	●				
7 - Leadership					●
8 - First Nations Knowledges					
9 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultures					

Textbooks and Resources

Textbooks

There are no required textbooks.

IT Resources

You will need access to the following IT resources:

- CQUniversity Student Email
- Internet
- Unit Website (Moodle)

Referencing Style

All submissions for this unit must use the referencing style: American Psychological Association 7th Edition (APA 7th edition)

For further information, see the Assessment Tasks.

Teaching Contacts

Aldon Delpont Unit Coordinator
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Schedule

Week 1 - 10 Mar 2025

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Introduction and welcome.		

Week 2 - 17 Mar 2025

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Terrorist groups typologies and ideologies.		

Week 3 - 24 Mar 2025

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Wave theory. Lone wolf terrorism.		

Week 4 - 31 Mar 2025

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Causes of terrorism.		Evaluating Response and Preparedness for Terrorism and Mass Violence events. Due: Week 4 Friday (4 Apr 2025) 11:45 pm AEST

Week 5 - 07 Apr 2025

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Innovation and malicious creativity in terrorist organisations.		

Vacation Week - 14 Apr 2025

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic

Week 6 - 21 Apr 2025

Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Emerging technological threats.		

Week 7 - 28 Apr 2025		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear threats.		
Week 8 - 05 May 2025		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Attack vector case studies.		Use case scenario. Due: Week 8 Friday (9 May 2025) 11:45 pm AEST
Week 9 - 12 May 2025		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Fire as a weapon (FaaW).		
Week 10 - 19 May 2025		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Use of drones in operational medicine.		
Week 11 - 26 May 2025		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Operational medicine: towards a subspecialty.		Use case scenario response plan. Due: Week 11 Friday (30 May 2025) 11:45 pm AEST
Week 12 - 02 Jun 2025		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Revision.		
Review/Exam Week - 09 Jun 2025		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic
Exam Week - 16 Jun 2025		
Module/Topic	Chapter	Events and Submissions/Topic

Assessment Tasks

1 Evaluating Response and Preparedness for Terrorism and Mass Violence events.

Assessment Type

Written Assessment

Task Description

Objective: This assessment requires you to critically analyse your organisation's readiness and response mechanisms in the context of terrorism and intentional mass violence events, focusing on your state of origin, the current threat and most likely attack methodology.

This assessment has three parts.

Part 1: Response Analysis.

Task description: Review the response arrangements for your state in the event of ongoing terrorism or intentional mass violence event.

Discuss: What are your organisation's roles and responsibilities during the acute phase of such an event?

Discuss: Do these roles and responsibilities effectively address the therapeutic vacuum in these situations?

Part 2: Terrorism Organisations Analysis

Task description: Identify three terrorist organisations from the Australian [National Security Database](#).

Provide a brief synopsis of each selected group's driving ideologies.

Cross-reference these groups with the [Global Terrorism Database \(GTD\)](#) to determine their most common attack modality.

Part 3: Historical Attack Modalities and Organisational Preparedness

Task description: Using the [Global Terrorism Database](#), identify the three most common historical weapon and attack modalities in Australia.

Assess whether your organisation is adequately resourced to address the potential injury profiles expected in the most common attack modalities based on your current operational medicine knowledge.

Conclusion:

Task description: Conclude your essay by evaluating your organisation's capacity to address the therapeutic vacuum created by a terrorist attack in Australia. This should consider historical and favoured attack modalities of currently active terrorist groups.

Note: Your assessment should be grounded in relevant data from the databases provided in the task descriptions and incorporate critical analysis of your organisation's preparedness and response capabilities.

Assessment Due Date

Week 4 Friday (4 Apr 2025) 11:45 pm AEST

Return Date to Students

Week 6 Friday (25 Apr 2025)

Weighting

30%

Assessment Criteria

There is a minimum word count of 1500 words and a maximum word count of 1650 words, excluding references for your assessment. Your assessment must be clear and concise. The assessment will be assessed per the information and rubric provided on the unit Moodle page. It should be presented in an essay format. This assessment task is worth 30% of the final mark.

Referencing Style

- [American Psychological Association 7th Edition \(APA 7th edition\)](#)

Submission

Online

Submission Instructions

"Please refer to the Generative AI Permission document available on your Moodle site for guidelines on acceptable and unacceptable uses of Generative AI in this unit."

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Critically analyse state and federal policy related to the response to a terrorism-related attack
- Develop an understanding of contemporary terrorist organisations' ideologies and prevalence in Australia
- Operationalise a medical response plan to a terrorism-related attack based on critical elements of specific attack modalities.

2 Use case scenario.

Assessment Type

Written Assessment

Task Description

Objective: This assessment is an opportunity to be creative and to speculate how a terrorist organisation would use emerging technologies to conduct an attack. However, the assessment must be grounded in reality and point to contemporary evidence of the use cases of emerging technologies and innovation by terrorist organisations.

Requirements:

Provide a speculative use case scenario of how a currently existing terrorist organisation might use an emerging technology in a terrorist attack. The chosen terrorist organisation must be currently active in Australia. Consider the chosen organisation's ideology, goals and capabilities as a foundation for target selection and attack capabilities. Consider that an attack might consist of multiple modalities and could be conducted in phases or stacks. For example, a vehicle ramming might be followed up with a stabbing spree like the 2017 London Bridge attack. Discuss the implications of these technologies in attacks and potential pitfalls for first responders during the immediate aftermath of a terrorist incident.

Assessment Due Date

Week 8 Friday (9 May 2025) 11:45 pm AEST

Return Date to Students

Week 10 Friday (23 May 2025)

Weighting

30%

Assessment Criteria

There is a minimum word count of 2000 words and a maximum word count of 2200 words, excluding references for your assessment. Your assessment must be clear and concise. The assessment will be assessed per the information and rubric provided on the unit Moodle page. It should be presented in an essay format. This assessment task is worth 30% of the final mark.

Referencing Style

- [American Psychological Association 7th Edition \(APA 7th edition\)](#)

Submission

Online

Submission Instructions

"Please refer to the Generative AI Permission document available on your Moodle site for guidelines on acceptable and unacceptable uses of Generative AI in this unit."

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Critically analyse state and federal policy related to the response to a terrorism-related attack
- Develop an understanding of contemporary terrorist organisations' ideologies and prevalence in Australia
- Evaluate how emerging technologies are likely to contribute to novel terrorist threats
- Identify a typology of contemporary terrorist tactics and attack modalities

3 Use case scenario response plan.

Assessment Type

Written Assessment

Task Description

Objective: Consider Assessment Two and the hypothetical terror attack.

Develop a comprehensive medical response plan for the hypothetical terrorism-related attack, considering critical elements specific to the attack modalities you described in the Assessment Two submission.

Requirements:

- Use your current state policy and guidelines for response to mass casualty incidents as a framework for your plan.
- Outline the key components of your plan, including the coordination of medical resources, support agencies, and communication strategies to ensure an effective and timely response.
- Your plan must align with the critical elements described in your Assessment Two essay submission.

A critical element in the context of this assessment is a unique characteristic of the hypothetical attack you described in Assessment Two. For instance, the critical elements of the Paris attacks of November 2015 are:

- Simultaneous coordinated assault by multiple attack cells.
- Use of explosive devices to target civilians and funnel them towards secondary attacks.
- Small arms attack followed by a hostage-taking.

Assessment Due Date

Week 11 Friday (30 May 2025) 11:45 pm AEST

Return Date to Students

Exam Week Friday (20 June 2025)

Weighting

40%

Assessment Criteria

There is a minimum word count of 2000 words and a maximum word count of 2200 words, excluding references for your assessment. Your assessment must be clear and concise. The assessment will be assessed per the information and rubric provided on the unit Moodle page. It should be presented in an essay format. This assessment task is worth 40% of the final mark.

Referencing Style

- [American Psychological Association 7th Edition \(APA 7th edition\)](#)

Submission

Online

Submission Instructions

"Please refer to the Generative AI Permission document available on your Moodle site for guidelines on acceptable and unacceptable uses of Generative AI in this unit."

Learning Outcomes Assessed

- Identify a typology of contemporary terrorist tactics and attack modalities
- Operationalise a medical response plan to a terrorism-related attack based on critical elements of specific attack modalities.

Academic Integrity Statement

As a CQUniversity student you are expected to act honestly in all aspects of your academic work.

Any assessable work undertaken or submitted for review or assessment must be your own work. Assessable work is any type of work you do to meet the assessment requirements in the unit, including draft work submitted for review and feedback and final work to be assessed.

When you use the ideas, words or data of others in your assessment, you must thoroughly and clearly acknowledge the source of this information by using the correct referencing style for your unit. Using others' work without proper acknowledgement may be considered a form of intellectual dishonesty.

Participating honestly, respectfully, responsibly, and fairly in your university study ensures the CQUniversity qualification you earn will be valued as a true indication of your individual academic achievement and will continue to receive the respect and recognition it deserves.

As a student, you are responsible for reading and following CQUniversity's policies, including the [Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure](#). This policy sets out CQUniversity's expectations of you to act with integrity, examples of academic integrity breaches to avoid, the processes used to address alleged breaches of academic integrity, and potential penalties.

What is a breach of academic integrity?

A breach of academic integrity includes but is not limited to plagiarism, self-plagiarism, collusion, cheating, contract cheating, and academic misconduct. The Student Academic Integrity Policy and Procedure defines what these terms mean and gives examples.

Why is academic integrity important?

A breach of academic integrity may result in one or more penalties, including suspension or even expulsion from the University. It can also have negative implications for student visas and future enrolment at CQUniversity or elsewhere. Students who engage in contract cheating also risk being blackmailed by contract cheating services.

Where can I get assistance?

For academic advice and guidance, the [Academic Learning Centre \(ALC\)](#) can support you in becoming confident in completing assessments with integrity and of high standard.

What can you do to act with integrity?



Be Honest

If your assessment task is done by someone else, it would be dishonest of you to claim it as your own



Seek Help

If you are not sure about how to cite or reference in essays, reports etc, then seek help from your lecturer, the library or the Academic Learning Centre (ALC)



Produce Original Work

Originality comes from your ability to read widely, think critically, and apply your gained knowledge to address a question or problem