

NT Defence Week 2026

27 April - 1 May

Northern Capability, National Defence

Monday 27 April

1 - 4pm | ICN NT Defence Speed Networking

5:30 - 7pm | Chief Minister's Welcome Reception (*Summit delegates only*)

Tuesday 28 April

7 - 9am | Master Builders NT Defence Week Breakfast

9:10 - 5pm | ADM Northern Australia Defence Summit

6:30 - 11pm | AIDN Gala Dinner and Industry Awards

Wednesday 29 April

9 - 12:30pm | ADM Army's Littoral Manoeuvre Operations Forum

1:30 - 5pm | ADM Contested Logistics Forum

6 - 8pm | Thales Friends of the Territory Networking (*invite only*)

Thursday 30 April

8 - 9:30am | CDU Innovation in the North Coffee Catch Up

10:30 - 12pm | Opportunities in the NT Beyond the Defence Sector

1 - 3pm | Larrakeyah Defence Precinct - Defence Industry Day

1 - 4pm | ASPI NT Defence Industry Forum (*invite only*)

5 - 8pm | Networking Sunset Cruise

6 - 8pm | Navy 125 Ceremonial Sunset Reception (*invite only*)

Friday 1 May

9 - 11am | NTIBN Coffee Catch Up: Membership and Procurement

12 - 4:30pm | Chamber of Commerce NT Innovation, Engagement & Capacity Tour

4:30 - 6pm | Chamber of Commerce NT Networking Drinks and Canapes

Northern Capability, National Defence

NT Defence Week is the Northern Territory Government's flagship annual program showcasing the Territory's strategic role in Australia's defence posture and Indo-Pacific engagement. Across a packed week of events, the program brings together Defence, industry, government and international partners for briefings, forums, tours and networking to showcase capability, investment opportunities and regional collaboration. The week is designed to strengthen relationships, support industry growth and reinforce the NT's position as a critical enabler of national defence and resilience.

NT Defence Week 2026 will profile the Northern Territory's critical role in Australia's Defence and national security. This year's theme, "Northern Capability, National Defence" highlights how the Territory's strategic location, infrastructure, and industry capability strengthen the nation's defence posture and long-term resilience.



Monday 27 April

1pm - 4pm | Industry Capability Network NT's Defence Industry Speed Networking

ICN NT will kick-off NT Defence Week 2026 with its Speed Networking event. This event facilitates targeted one-on-one meetings between prime contractors, key suppliers and local businesses involved in Defence projects and operations across the Territory.

5.30pm - 7pm | Chief Minister's Welcome Reception to NT Defence Week and the Northern Australia Defence Summit

The Chief Minister's Welcome Reception provides an opportunity for local, interstate and international delegates to enjoy the picturesque surroundings and stunning view of the Darwin horizon at Parliament House.

Invitation-only event offered to attendees of the ADM Northern Australia Defence Summit.

Tuesday 28 April

7am - 9am | Master Builders NT 2026 Defence Week Breakfast

The 2026 Breakfast will align with the NT Defence Week theme “Northern Capability, National Defence: Building the North, Strengthening the Nation”, offering delegates a valuable forum for discussion focused on Defence infrastructure and the opportunities it creates for the Territory.

9.10am - 5pm | Australian Defence Magazine’s Northern Australia Defence Summit

The 13th annual Defence Summit will focus on the strategic importance of Northern Australia and its significance to national and regional security. The conference will feature Ministers, senior Defence personnel, industry leaders, SMEs, academics and strategic analysts covering a range of topics considering ADF Capabilities in the North, investment in infrastructure projects and Defence as a driver for local economic growth.

Tuesday 28 April

6.30pm - 11pm | Australian Industry and Defence Network Gala Dinner and Industry Awards

The AIDN NT Gala Dinner and Industry Awards brings together Defence, industry and government to celebrate the Territory's achievements. The evening features the announcement of the 2026 AIDN NT Young Achiever, alongside the Chief Minister's Awards for Excellence in the Defence Industry and the Minister for Veterans' Community Awards. The Dinner provides an opportunity to connect, enjoy quality entertainment and hospitality, and welcome guests from across the Defence and industry community.



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Wednesday 29 April

9am - 4:30pm | Australian Defence Magazine's Half-Day Forums

Building on the strategic discussions of the Northern Australia Defence Summit, an additional day has been added to the program with two focused half-day forums designed to translate high-level insights into practical, capability-shaping conversations. These sessions provide a deeper examination of the operational, infrastructure and industry requirements driving Defence activity in northern Australia.

Forum 1: Army's Pivot to Littoral Manoeuvre Operations

Australia's Army is shifting to a littoral manoeuvre force, able to operate and sustain capability across northern Australia and the Indo-Pacific. This half-day forum will examine what that shift means for infrastructure, workforce and industry, and how partners can support accelerated delivery. Through Defence insights and expert panels, attendees will explore practical opportunities to strengthen the sovereign capability needed for Army's operational readiness in the region.

Forum 2: Contested Logistics

As Australia and the United States expand cooperation under enhanced force posture initiatives, the North is emerging as a key hub for pre-positioning, sustainment and theatre logistics. This forum explores the growing opportunities for industry as US activity in the region increases, examining what contested logistics means in the Indo-Pacific and how Northern Australia can strengthen supply chains, sustainment and infrastructure. Speakers from Defence, the US and regional experts will outline upcoming needs, capability gaps and pathways for engagement.

6pm - 8pm | Thales Friends of the Territory Networking

The Thales Friends of Territory Networking Function at the Darwin Convention Centre brings together senior leaders from Defence, industry and government, providing a unique opportunity to build influential relationships and play an active role in shaping future opportunities in the Northern Territory. *Local Partnerships are at the heart of how Thales operate.* This event gives Territory businesses the chance to connect directly with Thales senior leaders and open new conversations around collaboration and capability growth.

Invitation only event.

Thursday 30 April

8am - 9.30am | Charles Darwin University's Innovation in the North Coffee Catch Up

This event highlights CDU's applied research, technical expertise and workforce capability supporting Defence in the north. Aligned with the Defence Week theme "Northern Capability, National Defence", the showcase will explore emerging capability needs and opportunities for collaboration, helping strengthen local industry participation and build the sovereign capacity Australia requires.

10.30am - 12pm | Opportunities in the Northern Territory Beyond the Defence Sector

An overview of the NT's broader economic portfolio including projects across energy, digital, infrastructure and logistics—sectors that complement and create new opportunities for businesses looking to engage more deeply in the Territory's growing defence industry.

1pm - 4pm | Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) Northern Territory Defence Industry Forum

Presented by the Australian Strategic Policy Institute (ASPI) and Defence NT, this invite-only forum to be held during NT Defence Week 2026.

Thursday 30 April

1pm - 3pm | Larrakeyah Defence Precinct - Industry Day

This guided tour offers an inside look at Australia's evolving naval capability showcasing state-of-the-art maritime infrastructure, cutting-edge technologies and the strategic assets underpinning their operations. The tour provides a rare opportunity to explore the Navy's expanding sovereign capability and the significant industry partnerships supporting its future growth.



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Thursday 30 April

5pm - 8pm | Networking Sunset Cruise

One of the highlights of Defence Week, the HarbourCruise returns in 2026, providing an ideal networking opportunity while experiencing the Darwin Harbour sunset. This cruise will tour the harbour to showcase both Darwin's enabling infrastructure and natural beauty.

6pm - 8pm | Navy 125 Ceremonial Sunset Reception

Offered by the Royal Australian Navy (RAN) and Defence NT, this invite-only Reception to be held during NT Defence Week 2026.



Friday 1 May

9am - 11am | NT Indigenous Business Network's Coffee Catch-up - Membership and Procurement

Join the NT Indigenous Business Network for Coffee – a relaxed and informative session connecting Indigenous businesses, government, and industry. This event will explore how to make the most of Procure Connect, the Blak Business Directory, and the benefits of NTIBN membership to strengthen visibility, capability, and access to procurement opportunities across the Northern Territory.

12pm - 4:30pm | Chamber of Commerce NT Defence Innovation, Engagement & Capacity Tour

This guided tour showcases the Territory's growing defence industry capability, highlighting innovative local businesses, advanced manufacturing facilities, and key enablers supporting Defence operations in the North. Participants will gain firsthand insights into the technologies, skills, and capacity emerging in the NT, while connecting directly with industry leaders driving solutions for Defence and national resilience. Designed for visiting delegations, the tour provides a unique window into the Territory's expanding sovereign industrial capability.

Friday 1 May

4:30pm - 6pm | Chamber of Commerce NT Networking
Drinks & Canapes

Join local and visiting Defence, industry and government representatives for an informal evening of conversation, connection and collaboration to close out Defence Week for 2026. Hosted by the Chamber of Commerce NT, this relaxed networking event provides an easy opportunity to meet new contacts, strengthen relationships and exchange ideas in a social setting.



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