



# CFE-DM NEWS

Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance Monthly Newsletter

WWW.CFE-DMHA.ORG

456 Hornet Avenue, Building 76, Ford Island JBPHH, HI 96860-3503

@cfedmha

## CFE-DM Delivers HART Courses Across Indo-Pacific

The Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (CFE-DM) conducted two key Humanitarian Assistance Response Training - Disasters (HART-D) courses in the Indo-Pacific Region February 10-17, 2026.

The first course took place February 10-12 at CFE-DM Headquarters on Ford Island, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, in Honolulu, Hawaii.

This two-and-a-half-day training brought together 39 military personnel from U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM) and also included representatives from the U.S. Coast Guard District Oceania, a colonel from the Korean Air Force, and a member of the Security Force Assistance & Stability Integration Directorate at the U.S. Army War College. The training provided a unique opportunity for personnel from MARFORPAC, USARPAC, PACAF, COMPACFLT, DKI-APCSS, and the Hawaii National Guard to enhance interagency coordination, improve understanding of disaster response frameworks, and participate in scenario-based exercises simulating real-world humanitarian operations.



*James Kenwolf, Training and Engagements Branch Chief, instructs the Humanitarian Assistance Response Training-Disasters on Ford Island, Hawaii, February 13.*

The HART-D course is specifically designed to prepare military commanders and their staffs to respond more effectively during civilian-led humanitarian assistance and foreign disaster response missions. Through strengthening knowledge of disaster management principles and fostering collaboration across services and partner nations, the course equipped military planners to support timely, coordinated, and effective responses in the Indo-Pacific region, where humanitarian crises are a frequent concern.

On February 17, Mike Wylie, Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance Advisor at CFE-DM, and Joe Curry, Manila-based Regional Disaster Assistance Advisor from the U.S. Department of State, delivered a one-day HART-D course to personnel assigned to Task Force-Philippines (TF-P) at Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo, headquarters of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP). TF-P, a newly established coordination element under USINDOPACOM, was announced in late 2025 by Philippine Defense Secretary Gilberto Teodoro Jr. and U.S. Secretary of War Pete Hegseth. Tasked with supporting regional stability through joint planning, intelligence sharing, and interoperability with AFP counterparts, TF-P also plays a critical role in planning and executing Foreign Disaster Response (FDR) operations in the Philippines when required.

The one-day course led by Wylie and Curry focused on disaster management principles, with a particular emphasis on information sharing during FDR operations. A module on this topic was led for Col. James F. Korth, USMC, Director of TF-P, and his staff, with 39 TF-P personnel participating in the training. The session was designed to enhance their ability to coordinate disaster response efforts, ensuring effective communication and collaboration during humanitarian crises in the region.

Both training events reinforced the importance of interagency cooperation, knowledge sharing, and preparedness in disaster response.



**ASEAN**  
Disaster Management Reference Handbook  
February 2026



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## ASEAN Disaster Management Reference Handbook Now Available

The 2026 ASEAN Disaster Management Reference Handbook (DMRH) provides an overview of ASEAN's disaster management policies and highlights key updates in its new cycle of work plans and programs. This work will strengthen the resilience of ASEAN Member States as collective disaster management activities support the ASEAN 2045 Vision - Our Shared Future.

All of our DMRH publications are crafted to provide information support to personnel planning for or executing a disaster response operation or exercise alongside those countries' own responders.

**Download Now!**

## CFE-DM Hosts ASEAN Resilience Scene-Setter Workshop in Indonesia



(Top) ADMM+ Participants, January 30, 2026. (Bottom) CFE-DM Deputy Director Steve Castonguay leads discussions during the ASEAN Resilience Scene-Setter Workshop in Banten, Indonesia, January 30.

Workshop. One key outcome was ensuring a shared focus on supporting Timor-Leste as it prepares to take on the ASEAN Emergency Working Group co-chair seat in 2027.

Looking ahead, the Trident Resolve MPC outlined a robust agenda for the Field Training Exercise (FTX), scheduled for September 20-26, 2026. The FTX will enhance interoperability and coordination between military units and civilian agencies such as the AHA Centre and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. It will provide a platform to exercise ASEAN mechanisms, simulate Indonesia's national response system, and conduct practical tasks across key disaster management domains, including HADR, military medicine, and cybersecurity.

On January 30, 2026, CFE-DM hosted the ASEAN Resilience Scene-Setter Workshop in Banten, Indonesia. This event brought together key participants from the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM+) Trident Resolve Mid-Planning Conference (MPC) and set the stage for the upcoming ASEAN Resilience Workshop, scheduled for May 27-29, 2026, in Dili, Timor-Leste.

The workshop attracted representatives from the Changi Regional Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Coordination Centre (RHCC), the Australian Civil-Military Centre (ACMC), and New Zealand, alongside CFE-DM leadership, including Deputy Director Steve Castonguay and Security Cooperation and Plans Branch Chief Clyde Louchez. The session focused on operationalizing data for decision-making in disaster management, with Victoria Leat from the Pacific Disaster Center (PDC) providing a detailed overview of analytic capabilities to be showcased at the May workshop.

Discussions emphasized the importance of regional collaboration in building resilience, with New Zealand highlighting synergies with the Pacific Response Group (PRG) and other related initiatives. The workshop also paved the way for enhanced cooperation among ASEAN partners, with plans to involve key stakeholders, including the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre), ACMC, and Changi RHCC, in the upcoming ASEAN Resilience

## Joint Partners Support Balikatan 2026 at Camp Pendleton

February 9–14, 2026, the U.S. Joint Task Force (JTF), the AFP, and multinational partners from Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, and France convened at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, California, for the Balikatan 2026 (BK26) Staff Exercise (STAFFEX).

The exercise focused on the collaborative development of a comprehensive operational plan, with particular emphasis on integrating humanitarian assistance and disaster response considerations into mission execution. Throughout the week, participants conducted intensive academic sessions centered on the Multinational Military Decision-Making Process (MDMP-M). Working through complex and realistic scenarios, multinational planning teams developed and refined multiple courses of action designed to enhance operational effectiveness and responsiveness. The structured planning environment encouraged the exchange of best practices, strengthened professional relationships, and reinforced shared understanding among allied and partner forces.

The STAFFEX also provided a critical opportunity for the U.S. JTF staff, allied forces, subordinate units, and key enablers to refine procedures for multinational coordination. Through deliberate collaboration, participants improved interoperability, streamlined communication processes, and strengthened collective problem-solving capabilities. As BK26 progresses toward the Command Post Exercise in April, the insights gained and procedures refined during STAFFEX will directly contribute to enhanced operational readiness and the effective delivery of humanitarian assistance across the region.



## CFE-DM Supports Joint, International Logistics Qualifications

Across the months of December 2025 and January 2026, Mike Wylie and Greg St. Pierre supported the Marine Corps Logistics Operations Group's (MCLOG) Advanced Expeditionary Logistics Operations Course (AXLOC) 1-26 at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms (MCAGCC). AXLOC is a four-week course designed to develop critical thinking in adaptable Expeditionary Logistics Instructors (ELI) who will plan, direct, and conduct integrated tactical-level logistics in a littoral contested environment. ELIs have advanced understanding of theater and global logistics capabilities that enable force closure and force sustainment. ELIs will also be prepared to support commanders in ensuring unit readiness to fight tonight with available resources. Students attending AXLOC 1-26 came from across the Joint Force as well as the Italian Army.



*Greg St. Pierre (left) provides expertise during a Marine Corps Logistics Operations Group Advanced Expeditionary Logistics Operations Course at Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center Twentynine Palms in January.*

MCLOG used a tabletop exercise format for the AXLOC students to apply the Marine Corps Planning Process (MPP) to a notional FDR scenario in a friendly Indo-Pacific nation. Wylie and St. Pierre provided subject matter expertise to the exercise design team, ensuring that the FDR scenario and injects were doctrinally and factually correct, directly improving the realism and effectiveness of the training. Additionally, St. Pierre traveled to MCAGCC Twentynine Palms to support the MCLOG staff and AXLOC students during the tabletop exercise, creating impromptu scenario injects designed to test the students in a dynamic environment.

## CFE-DM Hosts Annual U.S. Army War College International Fellows Visit



On February 19, CFE-DM hosted 39 U.S. Army War College (AWC) International Fellows for an engaging training day session on planning considerations in foreign disaster response operations. The Fellows represented 38 countries and participated in the training as part of the AWC's Unified Command Course, where senior military officers from around the world study in areas ranging from military concepts and doctrine to national and theater level strategies. The CFE session explored recent developments in U.S. foreign humanitarian assistance architecture complemented by case studies of disaster response operations. The collaboration between CFE-DM and AWC underscores the importance of knowledge sharing and best practices in preparing strategic leaders for the challenges of foreign disaster response operations.

## CFE-DM Welcomes New Knowledge Manager

Shawn Parrish joins CFE-DM as the new knowledge manager, supporting digital modernization and enterprise information initiatives. In this role, he leads efforts to migrate legacy web platforms to modern content management systems and identify solutions that automate SharePoint workflows and improve user experiences.

Shawn worked for seven years at JIATF-West as a Communication Strategist. Most recently, Shawn served for five years as the User Experience Designer for All Partners Access Network (APAN), where he focused on improving platform usability, accessibility, and content structure for APAN's global user community. Shawn also supports learning technology integration and governance for enterprise training platforms, ensuring instructional content is organized, accessible, and aligned with mission objectives. He is committed to providing guidance on the responsible adoption of emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence tools.

A former U.S. Naval Information Professional Officer who served in the Indo-Pacific Region, Shawn brings experience in inter-agency coordination, operational planning, and strategic communications. He holds an MBA, a degree in computer engineering, and a professional diploma in User Experience Design and Research, along with several additional IT certifications.

