



CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE
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FOCUS IN, 2018

SUMMARY REPORT





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1. Executive Summary

Focus In 2018 was the second annual event sponsored by the Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (CFE-DM) to gather a group of experts from international humanitarian organizations and academic institutions in order to dedicate time and energy to specific humanitarian assistance and disaster response (HA/DR) related topics. This year's event focused on information sharing projects and research efforts in the Indo-Pacific region in order to increase potential areas of collaboration. The event was held at CFE-DM from 29 May – 1 June 2018. Innovative trends, recent natural disasters, and information sharing challenges in the Indo-Pacific region were woven into the agenda for relevancy and transmission of up-to-date case studies, approaches, and information for participants.

Collection, sharing, and dissemination of information are critical components of a successful international disaster response operation. However, information sharing and management platforms (ISMPs) currently in use in disaster response use different technologies, are not mutually accessible, and are not interoperable. Given the severity of recent disasters in the region, a common, interoperable information sharing and management platform that is easily accessible to civilian and military responders, is a critical element necessary for effective and efficient collaboration during natural disaster response (SIPA, 2018).

As stated in ASEAN's Plan of Action and Milestones for 2017, the lack of interoperability is intensified by the fact that there is "no single, agreed-upon command and control system" to direct ASEAN member states' militaries during a natural disaster. These challenges are further compounded by sovereignty issues, information sharing demands, and intricacies endemic to each coordination platform (RCG, 2018). While there is a multitude of challenges, there is a significant opportunity to foster collaboration within the region. This is demonstrated by partner organizations found within the Indo-Pacific communities exploring and incorporating information sharing principles in their strategies to combat natural disaster and complex emergency challenges.

Nineteen participants representing various organizations within the Pacific attended the event. The participants represented a variety of organizations: Columbia University SIPA (VTC), University of South Pacific, James Cook University, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Changi Regional HADR Coordination Centre (RHCC) Singapore, Australian Civil-Military Centre (ACMC), ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance (AHA Centre), UN OCHA Bangkok, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), World Food Program (WFP) Suva, National Geospatial



Focus In 2018 Civil-Military Coordination Event Attendees, Ford Island, Hawaii, May 29-June 1, 2018

Intelligence Agency (NGA) PACOM, NGA (USAF), Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA), Pacific Disaster Center (PDC) - Global, and J9 PACOM. A wide range of organizations and individuals provided their expertise in research and technical areas of HA/DR. Participants greatly benefited from contributions and feedback, and the event provided a forum to further explore key IS topics.

The purpose of this report is to provide a review of the planning, execution, and observations garnered from the Focus In 2018 workshop, recognizing the successes and challenges, and providing recommendations for improving upon future Focus In workshops. The report incorporates feedback from the ARIS Branch Chief, supporting staff, invited faculty and participants.

2. Workshop Goals & Objectives

Focus In, 2018 was the second annual event sponsored by CFE-DM to gather a group of experts from international humanitarian organizations and academic institutions, to dedicate time and energy to specific HA/DR related topics. This year's agenda promoted a multidisciplinary approach while remaining applicable and adaptive to the needs of actors in the region. The workshop was intended for academic, government, military and disaster management professionals with a role in responding to and prospectively managing disasters in the Indo-Pacific region. The agenda was collaboratively designed and executed with CFE-DM's branches with these goals and participants in mind.

By the end of the workshop, participants met the following objectives:

- Discuss research efforts among organizational partners to identify areas of collaboration, building on some initial proposals from Focus In, 2017;
- Discuss information-sharing projects in the Indo-Pacific region to identify areas for mutual support;
- Introduce the way forward of CFE-DM's Humanitarian Assistance Response Training (HART) program to address current humanitarian issues and;
- Discuss ways to assess, plan, manage and evaluate information sharing actions in response to major humanitarian crises.
- These objectives were achieved through the agenda topics and are discussed in further detail in the "Agenda & Content" section of this report.



Adrian Duaine, CFE-DM Branch Chief for Training & Education Leads a Discussion on HART Course Curriculum

3. Agenda & Content

Overall Comments

The workshop provided a blend of interactive learning approaches through presentations, group discussions, and roundtable discussions addressing the major information sharing issues faced by the disaster response community. Research topics, curriculum developments, information sharing, geospatial information sharing, academic partnerships and the development of a common approach in order to improve coordination in humanitarian action anchored the three-day workshop.

CFE-DM and Focus In 2018 presenters and participants developed additional recommendations for improving the workshop's content. The team will assess and develop additional recommendations, which will be communicated to CFE-DM for approval, and implemented in future workshops for an improved experience and assurance that organizational goals are met or exceeded.

Participant Presentations

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4. Summaries of the Sessions

Session topics and outcomes are provided in the sections below. The sessions included the following:

- HART overview and training curriculum
- HELP/HHAE overview and course history
- SIPA/Columbia Video Teleconference
- Research topics with ARIS (migration, pandemics, military growth, CMCoord)
- RCMC Projects Briefs (ADMM+ EWG, ASEAN, TTX, regional lines of effort)
- Pacific Disaster Center RAPIDS & DisasterAWARE benefits and challenges
- Information Sharing in Disasters
- Purple Book/ True North
- NGA Briefing on HADR GEOINT to include disaster scenario imagery
- NGA Briefing on the NOME Project



Alan Aoki, CFE-DM Research Analyst Provides a Presentation on Information Sharing

HART

The primary goal of this session was to present an overview of the Humanitarian Assistance Response Training (HART) course curriculum and to refine the course as a valuable resource in preparing U.S. military for foreign humanitarian assistance (FHA) and disaster response (DR) operations. The following HART Course Modules were discussed:

- FHA in a Spectrum of Operations
- USAID OFDA Role in Foreign Disaster Relief
- Disasters and Disaster Management
- Affected Population and Affected State
- The Humanitarian Community
- Assisting States/Use of Foreign Military Assets
- Role of the U.S. Military
- Humanitarian Logistics
- Information Sharing
- Communications Synchronization
- Complex Emergencies
- HA/DR Planning Considerations

The primary audience for the HART course is the U.S. military and as such helps ready the military for FHA and disaster response operations. Kristie Barrow, from the Australian Civil-Military Centre (ACMC), made the observation that HART DOD doctrine could be implemented for foreign countries. Also discussed was the challenge of gathering information on HART enrollment origin, and intentions of taking the course in JKO. Linkages between CFE-DM's Applied Research and Information Sharing Branch (ARIS) and the Training and Education Branch (T&E) were noted which include deliberate research, deep dive case studies, specialty PowerPoint modules, just-in-time research, and instructional support.

H.E.L.P./HHAЕ

CFE-DM has partnered with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for more than twenty years to bring their Health Emergencies and Large Populations (H.E.L.P.) course to a diverse group of civilian and military actors. The H.E.L.P. course is a two-week, on-site, graduate level training course on the principles and practice of humanitarian interventions in response to the needs of populations affected by acute and protracted crises due to disasters, armed conflicts, or other complex crises. The course utilizes a multidisciplinary, public health approach and focuses on the management of operations in humanitarian crises with an emphasis on decision-making and discussions on critical challenges and ethical dilemmas faced by managers and practitioners. Focus In attendees provided feedback that more research is needed on Urban Humanitarian Emergency Responses. An overview of course topics discussed included:

- Health Service Planning for Emergencies
- Epidemiological Assessment
- Communicable Disease Control and Prevention in Emergencies
- Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Issues in Emergencies
- Nutrition in Emergencies
- Food Assistance in Emergencies
- Sexual and Reproductive Health Needs in Emergencies
- Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Emergencies
- Non-Communicable Diseases in Emergencies
- Civil-Military Coordination in Emergencies
- Humanitarian Principles
- International Humanitarian Law
- Humanitarian Ethics
- Role and Influence of Media in Emergencies
- Humanitarian Security Strategies

In addition to the H.E.L.P. course, CFE-DM also provided a briefing on the Health and Humanitarian Action in Emergencies (HHAЕ) Course. CFE-DM and Humanitarian Assistance and James Cook University's College of Public Health, Medical and Veterinary Sciences in Cairns, Australia have jointly developed the HHAЕ course to train and equip professionals working or interested in working in the Pacific region on the principles and practice of humanitarian relief, providing participants a multi-disciplinary vision of humanitarian strategy in the provision of public health and medical interventions in humanitarian crises.

SIPA/Columbia Video Teleconference (VTC)

Focus In participants attended a VTC with Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA) with Karen Levin (Director) and Suzanne Hollmann (Professor). CFE-DM collaborates frequently with leading academic institutions to facilitate research in the field of civil-military coordination, linking academia directly with developing operational initiatives and stakeholders. The objective is to inform the thinking of military leaders, government officials, and civilian practitioners as they seek to address regional coordination challenges. The ongoing cooperative arrangement between CFE-DM and SIPA has resulted in two separate research projects that focused on civil-military coordination for ASEAN programs and initiatives. The most recent project culminated in a keynote presentation by a SIPA research team at the tenth meeting of the ASEAN Defense Ministers Meeting Plus

(ADMM-Plus) Expert Working Group (EWG) for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief. These projects as well as others including contributions to CFE-DM's Liaison Magazine were discussed and presented.

The 2016 SIPA team focused on preparedness via regional training in Jakarta and Honolulu by examining past and present trainings with the AHA Centre and regional training centers. Some products that were published in the CFE-DM Liaison Magazine include training and Civil-Military best practices, and roles in disasters.

The 2017 team conducted in-person interviews with the senior leadership of the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency and the CARICOM Disaster Relief Unit (CDRU), as well as international partners to determine lessons that could be learned for ASEAN as it seeks to operationalize the ASEAN Militaries Ready Group (AMRG). The resulting brief provided an in-depth comparative case study on the CDRU and the AMRG concept. The findings will be utilized in future EWG meetings to inform ASEAN's development of a Standard Operating Procedure for the AMRG.

The 2018 team focused on coordinating regional disaster information sharing via platforms (AHA Centre, UN OCHA OSSOC, DOD, APAN) and developed and utilized 7 metrics for strength, weakness, and challenges.

The spring 2019 project is being developed and is looking for more project and partnership development from May to July. SIPA has 60 projects coordinated annually and is the most diverse program in the U.S. and globally, training students to engage in the world and lead as policy professionals. Creating opportunities, such as this one, is a unique contribution of CFE-DM as it straddles not only the civil-military sectors, but also academic research and operational capacities.

Mr. Joseph Martin stated that SIPA is an "ideal model of applied research and CFE-DM provided resources to and evolved SIPA for over 3 years. This draws examples for research topics from Focus In attendees who want to partner with SIPA's research team of dedicated students."

Research Discussion with the ARIS Branch

Dr. Alberto Morales, Jr., CFE-DM Applied Research and Information Sharing (ARIS) Branch Chief convened a discussion meeting with Focus In attendees to discuss collaborative research opportunities with the ARIS Branch. Many research topics were raised and discussed. Ben Lark, from IFRC made the observation that pandemic preparedness and response is an important issue in HA/DR in regard to containment measures and controlling borders and people. He is interested in further research as to how the host nation prepares and responds to pandemics and how much of it is applicable to disasters. Other interests from participants included looking at military growth and the impacts to disaster response from a multilateral perspective. International and national migration, homelessness, and urban issues were also of interest. The relation between climate change and its impact to migration was discussed. Participants were interested in how the displacement of people from migration, as a result of a disaster, may create new disasters. It can become a security issue when large numbers of people are displaced.



Dr. Alberto Morales Jr., CFE-DM Branch Chief for Applied Research and Information Sharing Leads a Discussion on Collaborative Research Opportunities

Dr. Helene Jacot Des Combes from the University of the South Pacific was interested in the coordination between the UNOCHA CMCoord course and its relation of preparedness between the communities and the military to meet relief needs. She is interested in how a community is educated in disaster preparedness, and the use of their traditional local knowledge to prepare to reach resilience when a disaster occurs. The CMCoord course focuses on familiarizing participants with the interaction between humanitarian and military actors needed to protect humanitarian principles and avoid competition and inconsistency among responders in humanitarian agencies.

Qing Yuan Pang, from the AHA Centre said that it would be useful to look at regional organizations. Because each region has different obstacles, it is important to research topics in each region as a collective.

Regional Civil-Military Coordination Branch (RCMC):

Participants attended a presentation on how CFE-DM's Regional Civil-Military Coordination (RCMC) Branch strengthens INDOPACOM's working relationship with a range of Indo-Pacific regional organizations. RCMC promotes U.S. DOD support to civil-military coordination and dialogues with:

- ASEAN Defense Ministers Ministerial Meetings Plus (ADMM+) Expert Working Group (EWG) on HADR
- Association of Southeastern Nations (ASEAN) Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance (AHA Centre)
- United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs Regional Consultative Group (RCG)
- ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Inter-Sessional Meeting (ISM) on Disaster Relief (DR)
- ASEAN Regional Forum Disaster Relief Exercise (ARFDIRx)
- East Asia Summit (EAS)
- Singapore's Regional HADR Coordination Centre (RHCC)
- Thailand's Ministry of Defense (MOD)
- International Federation of the Red Cross/Red Crescent Society (IFRC)
- World Food Program (WFP)

CFE-DM is the INDOPACOM lead in supporting the DOD co-chairmanship of the ADMM+ EWG on HA/DR from 2017-2019. CFE-DM's support to the AHA Centre, the RCG, UNOCHA, IFRC were discussed. Bilateral and regional relationships with Singapore and Thailand were also presented on. For example, CFE-DM has supported the RHCC since its inception in September 2014 and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in January 2017 for mutual support. The Center has directly supported Thailand's Ministry of Defense since 2013 by facilitating, coordinating and briefing at Thailand's ASEAN Civil Military Coordination Workshop. CFE-DM also supported the Royal Thai Armed Forces (RTARF) in the creation of a TTX on HADR during Cobra Gold 2018.

RAPIDS & DisasterAWARE – Pacific Disaster Center

Dr. Erin Hughey, Director of Disaster Services at the Pacific Disaster Center (PDC) briefed the history of PDC and their goal of bridging between science and practitioner and translates the best products out there to their end users. PDC relies on agencies that have missions to initiate the warnings to collect data. PDC's global mission is to provide applied information research and evidence-base analysis for development of more effective disaster risk reduction (DRR) policies, practices, and HA/DR operations in the Asia Pacific region and beyond.

They are best known for GIS and visualization that created DisasterAWARE. DisasterAWARE is able to apply social, economic, and other indicators of exposed populations and identify assets nearby that can assist and provide aid. Vietnam's VinAWARE was also discussed. VinAWARE provides decision makers and disaster managers with accurate, near-real time hydro-meteorological (rainfall, river flood) data, in an easy-to-use, web-based application, with an emphasis on improving dam/reservoir monitoring and flood & storm early warning systems. Stakeholders and sponsors such as USAID OFDA, the Disaster Management Center, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, and the Center for Hydro-

Meteorological Forecasting are coordinating agencies involved in VinAWARE to bring information to 6.7 million Vietnamese citizens residing in target provinces. InAWARE, NepalAWARE, and other products in Myanmar were also discussed.

Dr. Erin Hughey spoke of the challenges with DisasterAWARE in that it still needs to work on agricultural impacts for agricultural producers. Participants were interested in how to track diseases. Tracking biological diseases is a challenge for the product. Other questions from participants included knowing how PDC measures their assessments and feedback as well as how they plan on advertising this model to civilians and military.

Information Sharing in Disasters

A discussion of guidelines and best practices for civil-military information sharing during disasters was discussed with Focus In participants. The intent of the information brief was for participants to discuss the importance of information sharing between military and civilian stakeholders during a disaster, and the challenges, planning, and preparation involved. Information sharing best practices and possible guidelines, along with information sharing platforms and information sources were discussed. The various players were identified for sharing information during HA/DR operations (civilian and military). The key coordination elements in natural disasters and complex emergencies are information sharing, task division and planning. Multinational guidelines were also discussed.

The sharing of information is particularly critical because no single responding entity- whether it is an NGO, IGO, assisting country government or host government-can be the source of all the required data and information. Information sharing between humanitarians and military actors should contribute to having a common situational awareness as the response operation progresses. A quick look at Information Sharing Lessons Learned from major responses were discussed as they reveal common findings (Haiti earthquake, Japan earthquake and tsunami, Typhoon Haiyan, Ebola Response, and the Nepal earthquake).

Attendees identified information sharing as anything that is useful to make decisions and to coordinate the action with raw or actual data. Challenges of information sharing include timing, information overload, ownership of information, connection with local communities, and civil-military relationships. The consensus is that information sharing must be transferable, not too complex, and that open sources should be used.

Unclassified information is the way to go when sharing information about disaster response. Both a collective information sharing platform, and a common operational picture is needed. It is also important to include civilians in disaster response because of their local knowledge and understanding. Kristie Barrow from ACMC shares that the military should be willing to accept information as well from civilians and this is something to highlight and been aware of. The sharing of information in both directions (to and from military) is an essential element of successful foreign disaster relief operations. Desired outputs from this session is to create a best practices pamphlet on Information Sharing.



Tom Frey, USAID Retired (left); Dr. Helene Jacot Des Combes, University of the South Pacific (Middle); Tonya Elliott, NGA (right) Engage in an Information Sharing Discussion During Focus In 2018.

Purple Book/ True North

The Department of Defense Support to Foreign Disaster Relief (The Handbook for JTF Commanders and Below), also known as the Purple Book was discussed. The Handbook serves as an overarching guide and reference for military responders. It provides other USG department and agencies and international partners, regional organizations, and non-governmental organizations, with information on DOD's support to Department of State (DOS) and USAID in FDR operations. The target audience for the book is persons deployed to respond to complex emergencies and disasters. The goal of this discussion was to add in a chapter or annex on Information Sharing that could be used in the CFE-DM's HART course. Alan Johnson, from WFP-Suva, suggested using the Oslo Guidelines on logistics about services. The latest version has a page of logistics that could fit into the forum including Information Sharing. The humanitarian perspective on transport and logistics is that while there are a few shared transport and logistics services, (UNHAS and UNLC), there is no centralized logistics structure for UN humanitarian agencies. The NGO community has a wide range of approaches to logistics. One comment among participants was that the purple book encourages JTF to upload in Reliefweb, however, it is not likely that DOD is posting a lot of information there. It was suggested that if we don't want to advise DOD to post on Reliefweb, we should take it out of the Purple Book.

True North was discussed in reference to access to imageries and the process of civilians requesting it. NGA is pushing to be more unclassified, and multiple foreign military partners are able to use and share the data during their meetings. During a response, UN OCHA and WFP receive maps and imageries quickly but sometimes the challenge is that information is left out so they have to Photoshop it in. Other challenges include long imagery download time, file size, access, funding, and correct information.

HADR GEOINT by Adam Pittson, NGA

Adam Pittson, Team Lead and GEONT Officer from the U.S. INDOPACOM HADR Geospatial Information Sharing (GEOINT) TEAM provided a presentation on HA/DR GEOINT. He showed imagery based on past disaster scenarios of HA/DR operations. GEOINT enhances awareness of disaster managers with the systematic approach necessary to properly utilize space-based applications. It is field tested in various settings with some countries adopting these guidelines as standard practice and many others expressing their desire to adopt similar practices.

Members of USG and NGA gather information and clarify the scope of initiatives/projects using commercial imagery. On-going projects include the Bangladesh Refugee camps on Char Island. Monitoring is taking place on the island every 90 days to observe the sea level rise. Challenges of GEOINT discussed included giving foreign NGO unclassified imagery, how to task P3 imaging, and figuring out who pays for it. For foreign NGO/ military, their foreign international affairs person can contact their government to request these imageries.

NOME Project by Tonya Elliott, NGA

Tonya Elliott, from NGA provided a presentation and discussion on NSG Open Mapping Enclave (NOME). NOME is an NGA initiative to implement Volunteer Geographic Information (VGI) concepts and tools to produce foundation GEOINT data within the Intelligence Community, the NSG, and among our foreign partners. Tonya Elliott showcased a few of the databases that NOME uses for their imagery to include NOME Amazon Cloud, Map Edit, Overpass turbo, Hootenanny, Map Features, Rocket Chat, Open Street Cam etc. To access the information, you would need a .mil or .gov account or you have to go through your international affairs person. NOME provides trusted users with an interface for dynamically enriching foundation GEOINT and enables dynamic content generation via a "living map" to enhance static map production.

5. Summary

The Focus In 2018 Workshop required considerable planning and development of partnerships, culminating in the successful delivery of a 3-day event. Focus In 2018 included applicable and relevant content for participants and increased building capacity with our partner organizations in the Indo-Pacific communities. The agenda explored and incorporated information sharing strategies to combat natural disaster and complex emergency challenges.

The research interests discussed over the 3-day event led to a significant networking and exchange forum. CFE-DM and Focus In participants learned that information sharing projects and research efforts in the region increase potential areas of collaboration. It was essential to the success of the workshop that innovative trends, recent natural disasters, and Information Sharing were woven into the agenda for relevancy.

Possible research topics that may grow out of Focus In 2018, include looking at the role of military when cash logistics is disappearing. What will the military's role be pertaining to cash vouchers? Regarding logistics, how might one tap into private partnerships (supermarkets) by making use of them by making and selling kits to the communities from the warehouses. This could have an impact on the health portion of disaster response. Along the lines of health, another research topic that gained interest and momentum in Focus In 2018, was the military's role in reinforcing or constricting movements during a pandemic response. In addition, can the PDC or another entity create a platform that can predict a pandemic outbreak and/or massive migration, whether the cause is original from an outbreak or from a major disaster?

CFE-DM's partnerships will continue to evolve, lending itself to future events and collaborative opportunities outside of the annual event for research, information sharing, and training and education engagements. CFE-DM will continue to strengthen and learn from the challenges and opportunities met in the Focus In 2018 workshop.



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