



# CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT & HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE



## AFP CGSC HADR COURSE OVERVIEW



### AFP CGSC HADR Course Overview

As part of U.S. Pacific Command's theater security cooperation engagements with the Philippines, CFE-DM executed the second Humanitarian Assistance Disaster Response (HADR) course at the Armed Forces of the Philippines Command and General Staff College. In partnership with the AFP CGSC course director and faculty, CFE-DM brought SMEs from the international humanitarian community – the U.N., USAID OFDA and USPACOM – to facilitate HADR discussions and planning for a 7.2-magnitude Metro Manila earthquake for this intensive five-day course. As part of their interagency module curriculum, over 190 field grade staff officers from the AFP joined international students from Indonesia, Malaysia and the Republic of Korea to complete this integrated course, which comprised 30 percent of students' overall grade. Students were evaluated on their participation throughout the various activities during the course including course lectures, small seminar discussions, moderator-led panel discussions and a capstone planning exercise. The main goal of the course was to elevate student's knowledge of the Philippine government interagency process and the coordination mechanisms required when working with the international humanitarian community and foreign militaries. There were four objectives (discussed below) to meet this goal.

### Participating Organizations

- International Federation of the Red Cross
- ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance
- World Food Programme
- United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
- National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council
- Metro Manila Development Authority
- Department of Social Welfare and Development
- Philippine Red Cross
- Philippine Office of Civil Defense
- Armed Forces of the Philippines General Headquarters
- USAID Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance
- Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology

### **Know the roles and responsibilities of the different Philippine national government agencies involved in disaster preparedness and response.**

The initial day of the course comprised of leveling briefings to provide a foundation of knowledge on HADR. CFE-DM SMEs gave briefings on basic disaster management principles, affected state responsibilities and affected populations. CGSC students also received presentations from the National

Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC), the Metro Manila Disaster Authority, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), and the Philippine Red Cross in order to familiarize them with the functioning of the Philippines national and local disaster management organizations. Students were also briefed on specific national and local earthquake response plans emphasizing specific AFP roles within in the NDRRMC structure, to include the national cluster system for which the AFP is a lead for the Search Rescue and Retrieval Cluster.

## **Understand the fundamental concepts, guidelines, and principles for humanitarian civil-military coordination and introduce the humanitarian community.**

Members of the international humanitarian community were given the opportunity to explain their mission, mandate and how their organization coordinates with the military and among themselves. The U.N. Office of Coordination for Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) explained the purpose for the Oslo and APC-MADRO Guidelines and how UN-CMCoord officers employ strategies of cooperation to co-existence during various disaster response environments.

Also discussed were the mechanisms used for coordination such as the On-Site Operations Coordination Center (OSOCC), and Humanitarian-Military Operations Coordination Center (HuMOCC). In addition to the civil-military coordination concepts, students were introduced to the various humanitarian organizations they would most likely coordinate with during HADR operations. Nate Nathanson from the World Food Program (WFP) discussed the WFP's role during disaster response operations and the Logistics Cluster's support to the affected states' transportation infrastructure. Alice Ho from the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC) discussed the RC/RC Movement and their code of conduct for providing aid to the most vulnerable populations and working with the National Societies. Leonardo Ebajo, from the Philippines Red Cross (PRC) discussed the PRC work in the local communities and their response capabilities.

## **Know the regional mechanisms for disaster response coordination.**

Rina Tnunay from the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) gave a presentation on the role of the AHA Centre and their regional mechanisms designed to facilitate effective regional coordination during a disaster response. This presentation included the use of the Standard Operating Procedure for Standby Arrangements and Coordination of Joint Disaster Relief and Emergency Response Operations (SASOP) to plan coordination with ASEAN militaries and governments during a disaster response. Also discussed was the use of the various tools that the AHA Centre offers to the affected state during response operations, for example the regional warehouses and ASEAN Military Response Group (AMRG).

## **Employ the Joint Operational Planning Process (JOPP) to plan a disaster response mission.**

As a course capstone, students were given a scenario based on the Metro Manila Earthquake Intensity Reduction Study, which was briefed by the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology (PHIVOLCS). Role playing the Joint Task Force National Capital Region staff planners, they had to analyze the AFP mission, estimate the situation, and develop two courses of action. In order to complete this task, students had to develop priority information requirements to support senior civilian and military decision-makers, identify national and international information sources available to support HADR operations, identify logistics requirements and gaps, develop a strategic communications plan, and select a course of action.

