The HART course prepares United States military commanders and their staffs to respond more effectively during civilian-led humanitarian assistance and foreign disaster response missions. The four-day, operational-level course focuses on applying the military planning and decision-making process to the unique circumstances associated with a foreign humanitarian assistance operation. Participants will employ realistic scenarios and existing plans to develop a concept of operations for a joint task force response to a major disaster. Case studies, small group practical applications, and role-playing exercises enhance lectures by civilian and military experts.

Joint force commanders and their staffs will understand:

- How to apply the military planning and decision-making process during a disaster response mission;
- The range of U.S. foreign humanitarian assistance;
- The key disaster response stakeholders: the Affected Population, Affected State, Humanitarian Community, Assisting States;
- The philosophy and mechanisms that govern the international humanitarian response to disasters;
- The collaborative means employed by international humanitarian agencies;
- The criteria for the use of military assets and the military’s unique supporting role during a foreign disaster response;
- The internationally-recognized principles of civil-military coordination; and
- The logistics, information sharing, communication synchronization, and public health challenges likely to be faced by military responders during an HADR operation.

Major topics to be covered include:

- Foreign Humanitarian Assistance—the U.S. spectrum of operations
- Disaster Management
- Affected Population and the Affected State
- Protection and Humanitarian Access
- The Humanitarian Community
- Assisting States and the Use of Foreign Military Assets
- Role of the U.S. military
- USINDOPACOM Foreign Humanitarian Assistance CONOP
- Humanitarian Logistics
- Information Sharing
- HA/DR Planning Considerations
- Complex Emergencies
- Security Cooperation