



CFE-DM NEWS

Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance Monthly Newsletter

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LIAISON

Building Long-Term
Stability and Resiliency

CFE-DM Call for Authors for the next Liaison

The next issue of the Liaison Journal assesses the role of Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Preparedness in building long-term stability and resiliency by examining how governments, militaries, and non-governmental organizations not only respond to, but prepare vulnerable nations for disaster responses and complex emergencies. This issue will explore the root causes of humanitarian emergencies and implications of international initiatives on Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Preparedness.

Submission Requirements:

- Word count of 2,000 - 8,000
- Short author biography and headshot
- Articles sent as unformatted Microsoft Word file
- Accompanying images or graphics sent as individual files

DEADLINE:
November 1, 2022

CFE-DM supports RIMPAC HADR exercise



U.S. and Japanese forces participate in a RIMPAC HADR exercise.

Twenty-six nations, 38 ships, three submarines, more than 170 aircraft and 25,000 personnel are participating in Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) from June 29 to August 4. The Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (CFE-DM) participated in the RIMPAC humanitarian assistance/disaster relief (HADR) exercise which took place July 5-18 providing humanitarian assistance and disaster management training and exercise support. The objective of the disaster relief exercise is to improve interoperability between partner militaries and better understand cooperation with civilian organizations during times of disaster response.

CFE-DM led a team of subject matter experts from the USAID Bureau of Humanitarian Assistance, Pacific Disaster Center, International Federation of the Red Cross, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance, and the Regional Humanitarian Coordination Center to provide four HADR academic seminars including an HADR Senior Leader Seminar, a Senior Staff Command Forum, HADR Symposium and an HADR Staff Planner's Integration Course. During the HADR exercise, CFE-DM, USAID BHA, and PDC were responsible for writing and providing daily scenario injects/updates. The SME team did their best to set a realistic scenario as possible while meeting the exercise objectives of inclusivity, interoperability, and adaptability.

Speaking about the exercise, Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force Rear Adm. Toshiyuki Hirata, vice commander of HADR Combined Task Force commented that while RIMPAC 2022 contained a wide spectrum of exercises, the HADR exercise was specifically timely because of the many natural disasters the region faces, stating that this was a great opportunity for partners in the civil-military space to come together.



CFE-DM Advisor Blanchard, talks to Rear Adm. Hirata.

“We improved our operational capability and

RIMPAC HADR continued

enhanced the mutual understanding and strengthened cooperation with other country militaries and civilian organizations,” said Hirata. “Non-military organizations also joined us, so we have good coordination regarding conduct of operations. It is a very good opportunity for us to enhance our capabilities. We adapt it in real situations.”

The HADR exercise was designed to enhance interoperability between military partners during a multi-national disaster response, as opposed to the typical bi-lateral response.

“This exercise creates a unique opportunity to experiment in a dynamic scenario environment with military-military collaboration models to see how RIMPAC nations could support foreign disaster relief and other operations as one team while keeping national authorities intact,” said Dr. Joyce Blanchard, a Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance advisor for CFE-DM. “That is the benefit of exercises, we can experiment with models that do not currently exist in the real world.”

This idea also supports the Commander U.S. Pacific Fleet, Adm. Samuel Paparo’s ideas concerning the importance of interoperability and interchangeability between partner nations he discussed during the HADR Senior Leader Seminar held by CFE-DM.

Blanchard and the CFE-DM team designed a Coaster Islands and Griffon Disaster Management Reference Handbook for the fictional RIMPAC countries to provide country reference and disaster management information for the exercise scenario. CFE-DM typically creates these disaster management reference handbooks to provide a baseline of information for disaster response in countries around the globe. These handbooks offer readers an operational understanding of a nation’s disaster management capability and vulnerability, with detailed information on demographics; hazards; government structure; regional and international assistance; infrastructure; laws and guidelines; risks and vulnerabilities; and other areas vital to a comprehensive disaster management knowledge base.

The handbooks help build situational awareness and an understanding of how responding militaries fit into a country’s disaster response framework, helping to improve efficiency and effectiveness of foreign military support to disasters. For militaries in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region, foreign militaries routinely support foreign disaster relief efforts. This was reiterated by U.S. Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro during his visit to the RIMPAC HADR camp on July 17, further reinforcing the importance of interoperability and partnerships, especially during times of disaster relief.



Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force Rear Adm. Hirata talks to military and civilian participants during a HADR exercise in RIMPAC 2022.



Adm. Paparo, commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet, speaks during the RIMPAC 2022 HA/DR Senior Leader Seminar.

CFE-DM supports Pacific Partnership 2022 HADR workshop in Palau

In partnership with the U.S. Coast Guard and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CFE-DM organized and led a Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Response workshop in Koror, Palau from July 12-15 as part of Pacific Partnership 2022. The four-day workshop included four subject areas tailored to specific Palauan humanitarian and disaster response stakeholders: Public Health Risk Communication, led by a three-person team of trainers from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control; Climate Change Impacts, led by CFE-DM’s Climate Change Initiative team; Maritime Search and Rescue, led by the US Coast Guard, and disaster risk reduction and early warning.

Key Palauan counterparts included the National Emergency Management Office, the Ministry of Health and Human Services,



Pacific Partnership in Palau continued



Pacific Partnership 2022 HADR Workshop participants pose with Republic of Palau Vice President, Uduch Sengebau Senior (center).

and the Palau Office of Climate Change. The workshop was opened by Republic of Palau Vice President and National Emergency Committee Chair, Uduch Sengebau Senior, outgoing U.S. Ambassador to Palau, John Hennesy-Niland.

The HADR workshop was one of a range of activities that the larger Pacific Partnership 2022 mission carried out in Palau, including medical engagements aboard USNS Mercy and open water search and rescue exercises. PP22 partners in Palau included Australia, Japan, and the U.K. The CFE-DM delegation was led by Director Joseph Martin, SES; and included Alice Tsai, for the coordination of the public health portion of the workshop, Stephen Frano and Taryn Ino to coordinate the climate change subject area, and Casey Johnson for logistics.

HART-D training team returns to Okinawa

The CFE-DM Humanitarian Assistance Response Training (HART) team recently returned to Okinawa for training with long-time partner 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade (3rd MEB) Jul. 26 - 29, 2022. The Marines and Sailors from 3rd MEB, were joined by Marines from III Marine Expeditionary Force and the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit. The three-day course also included four Soldiers from 5th Security Force Assistance Brigade at Joint Base Lewis McChord. The HART-Disasters course prepares U.S. military commanders and their staffs to respond more effectively during civilian-led humanitarian assistance and foreign disaster response missions. Brig. Gen. Fridrik Fridriksson, commanding general, 3rd MEB, joined the course to receive student briefings following the 2015 Nepal earthquake response case study group exercise. Fridriksson also addressed the students underscoring the importance of preparation and understanding the leading role of the disaster-impacted country. “We must focus on those unique DoD capabilities that will allow our partners to do their work and succeed,” said Fridriksson. The training team included Jenny Caruso, Steve Castonguay, and Trevor Monroe from CFE-DM, along with Nina Kessler, the USAID/Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance Advisor to 3rd MEB.



Brig. Gen. Fridrik Fridriksson speaks to HART students.

CFE-DM co-chairs Regional Consultative Group (RCG) Mid-Year Consultation (MYC) 2022



On 21 July 2022, CFE-DM as part of the Regional Consultative Group (RCG) Co-Secretariat with the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs for Asia and the Pacific (OCHA ROAP) and the Australian Civil-Military Centre (ACMC), helped organize and facilitate a virtual session of the RCG Mid-Year Consultation (MYC).

The two-hour online session covered: 1) RCG Member updates on progress and developments on Civil-Military coordination in countries, moderated by ACMC. Updates were presented by Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal, and the Philippines; 2) RCG Information Sharing Working Group (ISWG) updates on progress and developments within the ISWG, presented by CFE-DM; 3) Global Consultative Group (GC) updates from the 2022 annual network meeting and updates on CMCoord capacity-development, presented by UNOCHA Civil-Military Coordination Service (CMCS); and 4) Planning for the 8th Session of the RCG which included an open discussion of key themes, moderated by the RCG Co-Secretariat. The brainstorming session

aimed to provide ideas for panel and breakout sessions for the annual meeting.

The RCG was formed in 2014 as a regional forum to bring together humanitarian, civilian and military actors involved in planning for and responding to disasters in the Asia-Pacific. As co-secretariat with UNOCHA ROAP and ACMC, CFE-DM has been closely involved with the RCG since its inception. The Annual RCG meeting is slated to be held in person in December 2022 in Bangkok, Thailand with exact dates to be determined.

ASEAN: Disaster Management Reference Handbook now available

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is at the heart of the Asia-Pacific region. By combining their influence and efforts, the 10 ASEAN member-states have been able to help shape economic, political, and security interests and discussions. The member-states have committed to coordinated action to better respond to natural and man-made disasters and to mitigate disaster impacts. In the past 20 years, they have demonstrated the efficacy of dynamic, cooperative initiatives, and the U.S. and other players have recognized the significance of supporting and participating in ASEAN's disaster management programming. Integrated and inclusive approaches are an essential aspect of human security. As ASEAN member-states are located in a region particularly vulnerable to natural disasters, their collective ability to leverage their own resources and their international partnerships will be critical to creating resilient communities. ASEAN has developed multiple international partnerships specifically focused on disaster management. As climate change drives an increase in hazards intensity, frequency, and unpredictability, ASEAN is increasingly pursuing mitigation and adaptation. This handbook serves as an initial source of information for those individuals preparing for disaster risk reduction activities or immediate deployment to one of the ASEAN member-states. It provides decision makers, planners, researchers, and responders greater insight into ASEAN frameworks, tools, and mechanisms, thereby enhancing regional civil-military response. For their support in developing this resource, CFE-DM would like to thank Royal Australian Air Force Wing Commander Hatem Abiad at the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate at U.S. Indo-Pacific Command; U.S. Army Lt. Col. Christopher Goodrich, Chief of U.S. Security Cooperation Office at ASEAN; Ganesh Navaratnam, Regional Civil-Military Relations Coordinator at the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies' Asia-Pacific Regional Office, Health, Disaster, Climate and Crisis Unit; and the Staff of the AHA Centre. Available here: <https://www.cfe-dmha.org/Publications/Disaster-Management-Reference-Handbooks>



President of Robertson Foundation visits CFE-DM to discuss the Academic Partnership Program

The President of the Robertson Foundation for Government, Geoff Robertson, visited the Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance on Jun. 28, 2022 to discuss the Applied Research and Information Sharing branch's Academic Partnership Program. RFG supports graduate academic fellowships, government internships, professional development, and career networking. The RFG has a long-standing partnership with the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command and CFE-DM through the USINDOPACOM Summer Fellows Program. The program is designed to engage graduate students from across the nation for a ten-week internship during which they work alongside staff within the command on real-world challenges impacting the Indo-Pacific region. The purpose of the ARIS APP is to reach out to and partner with the global academic community, to provide a research opportunity for undergraduates in the second semester of their junior years and for Master's level and post-graduate students, and to share information on innovative, relevant, and current research concerning civil-military coordination to prepare for disaster management and humanitarian assistance missions. In addition to discussions on education and the



RFG President, USINDOPACOM interns, and CFE-DM staff.

fellowship programs, Robertson's visit explored areas of shared interest such as climate change, cybersecurity, and mis/disinformation. It is by bolstering these mutually beneficial collaborative partnerships that the ARIS APP can enhance capacity building through information sharing and socializing new ideas and strategies based on the latest data and research. For more information on the CFE-DM Academic Partnership Program visit the website at: <https://www.cfe-dmha.org/Programs/Academic-Partnership-Program>

UNOCHA representative discusses humanitarian access and protection of civilians with CFE-DM



Helene Skaardal, a Humanitarian Affairs Officer with UNOCHA's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific gave a presentation to CFE-DM staff as part of the Center's All Hands "Professional Development" series. Her reflections of field experiences in Ukraine and Myanmar brought to life important key issues and challenges of humanitarian access and protection of civilians in complex emergencies. "Protection of civilians means everything we do as humanitarian actors to prevent violence against the civilian population," said Skaardal. "Which takes various different forms in a conflict." CFE-DM's has a new Protection of Civilian Program intended to strengthen practices to mitigate and respond to harm experienced by civilians during military operations.

DoS Young Pacific Leaders visit CFE-DM

CFE-DM hosted 42 leaders from 24 Pacific nations as a part of the eighth Young Pacific Leaders Conference in Honolulu, Hawaii on July 20. The Young Pacific Leaders program is the U.S. Department of State's signature program to strengthen leadership development and networking in the Pacific. This program seeks to build the leadership capabilities of youth in the region and strengthen ties between the United States and the Pacific. During the visit to the Center staff discussed civil military coordination in disaster response along with climate change impacts in the Pacific.



Young Pacific Leaders receive a tour of the center.

CFE-DM supports Military-Civilian Health Security Summit and Global Health Security Conference

CFE-DM staff participated in the Military-Civilian Health Security Summit (MCHSS) and Global Health Security Conference (GHSC) in Singapore. The MCHSS was held 27 – 28 June and was hosted jointly by the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, Australian Defense Force, and Singapore Armed Forces. The MCHSS brought together civilian and military professionals from 25 nations to focus on interagency cooperation with allies and partners in responding to regional approaches on global health security, such as lessons learned and best practices from the COVID-19 response. Alice Tsai from CFE-DM and Cmdr. Andrew Letizia from the U.S. Naval Medical Research Unit No. 2 served as civilian and military co-facilitators for the Southeast Asia regional breakout session. Outcomes of the breakout session included the identification of challenges and limitations, regional priorities, short- and long-term activities for strengthening the capacity of regional bio-surveillance network through civil-military/security partnerships.

The GHSC, 28 June – 1 July, brought together more than 850 military and civilian health security practitioners, researchers, policymakers, scientist, and government officials from 78 countries. Highlight of key topics included One Health, women in global health security, multisectoral collaboration for global health emergency response, workforce development, and capacity building for community-based resilience. This event along with the MCHSS enabled multidisciplinary stakeholders with a common interest in health security issues to develop innovative solutions to better prepare for, detect, and respond to future global health emergencies. CFE-DM staff also met with collaborating partners including representatives from the Pacific Community, Australia National University, Republic of Fiji Military Forces, and International Federation of the Red Cross.



Civilian and military professionals from 25 nations gather to support and discuss cooperation with allies and partners in responding to regional approaches on global health security at the MCHSS in Singapore.

Malaysian Armed Forces Exercise Bersama Warrior 2022

CFE participated in the eighth iteration of the U.S. and Malaysian Armed Forces Exercise Bersama Warrior 2022 (BW22). Bersama Warrior is sponsored by U.S. Indo-Pacific Command and hosted by the Malaysian Armed Forces, with a focus on strengthening the State Partner Program relationship between the Malaysian Armed Forces and the Washington National Guard. Nearly 100 US participants in BW22.

Command post exercises like Bersama Warrior are designed to strengthen the relationship between the host nation's armed forces, and the US by planning for complex problems collectively in joint and coalition operations. CFE-DM SME's were key members within the Exercise Control Group, and added role player support to bring reality to the humanitarian impacts that conflict has for the training audience. They provided academic modules on protection of civilians, and highlighted themes on civilian protection and minimizing and responding to civilian harm in crisis.



CFE-DM staff pose with their Malaysian counterpart at the eighth iteration of BW22.