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CIVIL-MILITARY COORDINATION IN FOREIGN DISASTER RELIEF

BEST PRACTICES FOR INFORMATION SHARING



Series of Best Practices Pamphlets by CFE-DM



- Civil-Military Coordination in Foreign Disaster Relief: Best Practices for Affected & Assisting States
- Civil-Military Coordination in Foreign Disaster Relief: Best Practices for Information Sharing
- Civil-Military Coordination in Foreign Disaster Relief: Best Practices for Joint Operations Centers (JOCs)
- Civil-Military Coordination in Foreign Disaster Relief: Best Practices for Joint Task Forces (JTFs)
- Civil-Military Coordination in Foreign Disaster Relief: Best Practices for Logistics
- Best Practices for Inclusive Gendered Security in Natural Disasters
- Civil-Military Coordination during HA/DR in Conflict: Best Practices for Joint Task Forces (JTFs)
- Best Practices for Civilian Harm Mitigation and Response in U.S. Military Operations
- Best Practices for Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) in Pandemics
- Best Practices for DoD to Increase Readiness for Climate Change Impacts on HADR Related Missions
- Best Practices to Support Locally Led Responses

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Cover photo caption: Humanitarian and military staff members gather at the Humanitarian-Military Operations Coordination Centre in Nepal to coordinate relief after a 7.8-magnitude earthquake struck the nation.

Photo credit: UNOCHA

Executive Summary

Purpose: To provide a condensed set of best practices for civil-military coordination during Foreign Disaster Response (FDR) operations, as it relates to Information Sharing.

- **Key Points:**

Conduct foreign disaster response operations with respect for humanitarian principles – providing aid impartially and neutrally, based on needs, in order to save lives and alleviate suffering.

- US lead federal agency in foreign disaster response is the United States Agency for International Development’s (USAID) Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA).
 - Department of Defense (DoD) is in a supporting role.
 - BHA’s core competency is FDR.
 - BHA leads the US whole-of-government FDR effort in support of the host nation requesting US government (USG) assistance.
 - One of BHA’s roles is to validate requests for the US DoD assistance and assist with civil-military coordination in a foreign disaster response.
 - BHA will validate tasks for DOD via the Mission Tasking Matrix (MITAM).
 - Utilize BHA to initiate interaction with humanitarian coordination mechanisms and meetings – BHA can help navigate the humanitarian landscape and guide DoD away from common friction points in civil-military coordination.
- DoD assets should be used in FDR when they provide unique capabilities and civilian assets cannot meet specific capabilities.
- DoD assets supporting foreign disaster response should be prioritized to provide infrastructure support and indirect assistance, avoiding foreign military participation in direct assistance as much as possible.

“The basis for coordination in relief operations is information sharing. If information is properly shared and tasks are appropriately divided, a foundation can be laid for collaborative planning, if appropriate. If the basis for respect and understanding between military and civilian actors has been established through information sharing and appropriate task division in the relief phase, the planning process then provides the bridge from relief to recovery.” – UN-CMCoord Field Handbook

- **Information sharing is a key civil-military coordination component in response to natural disasters and humanitarian emergencies.**

Introduction

Information sharing between civilians and the military (civil-military, or civ-mil) is an important element of effective disaster response.

Guidance from the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) UN-CMCoord Field Handbook:

“The key coordination elements in natural disasters and complex emergencies are information sharing, task division and planning.”

For civilian and military entities responding to a disaster, access to timely and accurate information is crucial for two reasons: 1) It helps prioritize who undertakes what relief actions where; and 2) It allows responding entities to ensure the safety and security of their own personnel in swiftly changing environments. Military actors should plan and implement in coordination with relevant national authorities of the affected state and civilian organizations, working together to ensure effective coordination. Civilians and the military should work closely to ensure the response operation’s information needs are clear.

Information sharing can also pose unique challenges and involves adequate preparation and planning so that relief operations can progress as seamlessly as possible.

Successful information sharing requires the sharing of information between both civilian and military responders. The sharing of information in support of relief operations is a “two-way” street and involves willing participation by all parties in order to be effective.

“The sharing of information in both directions is an essential element of successful FDR operations.”

- “Department of Defense Support to Foreign Disaster Relief” Handbook

Best Practices

USAID’s Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA) is the U.S. Lead Federal Agency – When the U.S responds to a foreign disaster deploying civilian or military assets, the lead federal agency is USAID/BHA, with the **DoD in a supporting role**.

Best Practice: DoD works closely *in support of* BHA, receiving BHA guidance on effective use of DoD assets in foreign disaster response, including information sharing.

BHA's core competency is foreign humanitarian assistance. They are critical in ensuring appropriate, effective use of DoD assets in a foreign disaster response. BHA saves valuable time in helping the DoD navigate among the wide array of humanitarian actors and connecting with those most relevant.

Relevant Information Sharing Actors in the International Humanitarian Community

In general, information sharing should be accomplished at all levels of response with relevant partners, including the humanitarian community (United Nations, International Non-Governmental Organizations [NGOs] and national level NGOs), U.S. Government agencies (particularly USAID/BHA and the U.S. Embassy and other USG agencies involved in the response), Affected State officials and military, other foreign militaries assisting in the response, as well as regional organizations (such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASEAN).

Best Practice: Understand roles of relevant agencies from the international humanitarian community regarding information sharing and civil-military coordination.



UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

Website: <https://www.unocha.org/>

OCHA

The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) coordinates humanitarian actors in international disaster responses, but does not have command authority over other UN agencies or NGOs. OCHA plays a critical role in liaising with military actors on behalf of the humanitarian community, including by deploying UN Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination (UN-CMCoord) Officers. While BHA vets, validates, and prioritizes requests for DoD support and advises DoD in civil-military coordination, UN-CMCoord officers are focused on civil-military coordination between humanitarian actors and militaries of Affected and Assisting States.

Of the UN Agencies, OCHA is the most involved in humanitarian information sharing and manages several online information sharing platforms, including ReliefWeb, HumanitarianResponse.info, Virtual OSOCC, etc. These are widely used platforms during response efforts so it is highly recommended that the military responder familiarize themselves with these platforms.

During an emergency response, foreign militaries are likely to work with the OCHA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) on civil-military coordination. *(Please see “Indo-Asia-Pacific Regional Mechanisms” section below for more information on ROAP).*



World Food Programme (WFP)

Website: <https://www.wfp.org/>

The World Food Programme (WFP), part of the United Nations (UN), is mandated to meet the food needs of populations in a crisis. WFP has expertise in humanitarian logistics, coordinating logistics for humanitarian agencies, and is the global lead agency of the Logistics Cluster and Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC). The so-called “Cluster Approach” are groups of humanitarian organizations both UN and outside of the UN, in each of the main sectors of humanitarian action, e.g. logistics, telecommunications, health, etc.

The WFP manages the UN Humanitarian Response Depot, a global network of hubs and warehouses for prepositioning items and support. WFP also maintains an Air Coordination Cell (ACC), a coordination mechanism to assist the Affected State with incoming air traffic.

Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC)

Website: <https://www.etcluster.org/>



The Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) is one of the 11 clusters designated by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), as part of the humanitarian “Cluster Approach” (i.e., Logistics, Water, Sanitation and Hygiene, Health, etc.) utilized during a disaster response. The WFP is the global lead of the ETC.

The ETC is a global network of organizations that work together to provide shared communications services in international disaster responses. Within 48 hours of a disaster, the ETC aims to provide vital security communications services and voice and internet connectivity to assist responders.

Why is Information Sharing important in FDR Operations?

- Improves shared situational awareness
- A Common Operating Picture (COP) can improve response efforts
- Increases unity of effort; Information Sharing is critical to de-confliction
- Information Sharing helps to foster trust and transparency

While it is clear that effective information sharing is important for relief operations, some obstacles to information sharing remain.

“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 of the required data and information.”

- JP 3-29 Foreign Humanitarian Assistance

Some of the challenges to information sharing are:

- Militaries' use of classified information
- Distrust amongst civilians and military
- A lack of mechanisms for effectively sharing information
- Too many different information sharing tools
- Some humanitarian workers and military responders may prefer to use their own or another information sharing platform for response

While certainly not insurmountable, these challenges should be kept in mind as the military responder seeks to initiate information sharing with the Affected State, other foreign military responders and members of the international humanitarian response community. It should be noted that if the Affected State has a preferred means or mechanism for sharing information, Assisting States and foreign militaries should follow the Affected States lead.

“Information sharing between all parties is critical to maximizing unity of effort. FMF [Foreign military forces] must take the initiative to ensure maximum information sharing with the Affected State and humanitarian community (e.g. by providing unclassified information to include safety and threat information, information on critical incidents or developments). Joining the nationally accepted information source(s) should be a primary means to achieve this, on unclassified means where appropriate. Security concerns may preclude the FMF from sharing complete operational information but every effort to maximize sharing should be made. Conversely, some members of the humanitarian community may be reluctant to share some information about their activities for fear of compromising their neutrality and independence, and, thus, the security for their staff and beneficiaries. The publishing or open sharing of data must be only done after coordination with the Affected State coordinating body.”

-Multinational Force Standard Operating Procedures, Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Relief Annex, paragraph 3.1.6

Best Practices

Best Practice: Keep information Unclassified (UNCLASS) to the extent possible

There can be no coordination without adequate communication and information sharing. Humanitarian actors approach conducting disaster response with maximum transparency. Likewise, DoD coordination and correspondence supporting foreign disaster relief should be unclassified as much as possible to optimize information sharing.

Keep information unclassified as much as possible. This is repeated in many After Action Reports (AARs) where DoD participated in foreign disaster relief and it is often emphasized by BHA for effective USG coordination in FDR operations.

It has been noted in many AARs that an overreliance on classified information systems has hindered past disaster responses. This is due to several reasons, but mainly, the effort to declassify information for release takes too long while the timely release of information is critical during relief efforts. Additionally, the humanitarian community works in an open, unclassified environment that allows them to quickly share information across organizations. Timely, shared information is vital to an efficient response. The way to do this is through keeping information unclassified to the extent possible so that it can be shared throughout the response community.

Best Practice: Share Unclassified information to major humanitarian platforms when appropriate, in coordination with USAID/BHA

To share disaster response Situation Reports, maps, etc. with humanitarian actors, ReliefWeb is the closest thing to an informational “one-stop shop” for the global humanitarian community. There are other platforms available (See “FDR Information Resources” section at the end of this pamphlet). Where possible, information sharing to humanitarian websites should be done in conjunction with USAID/BHA in an effort to avoid duplication, however, this should not deter military members from uploading unclassified information to humanitarian websites in an effort to share information in a timely manner.

Unclassified information can also be “pushed” to humanitarian organizations via email, such as SitReps, answers to RFI’s, etc. Although the emphasis here is to “push” information to humanitarian organizations and humanitarian information sharing platforms, the military responder should always keep in mind that humanitarian information sharing websites such as ReliefWeb, are great sources of information, to “pull” from, not only for current situational awareness, but also for hazard information, historical data, and humanitarian analysis.

Best Practice: Establish early guidance on foreign disclosure

Policies regarding release of data, particularly geospatial intelligence (GEOINT), may vary by country and COCOM. Communicate early with the Combatant Command and National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) foreign disclosure officers (FDO) to provide clear policy as early as possible on releasability of data to foreign governments and international humanitarian actors for the particular foreign disaster relief DoD is supporting.

Establishing foreign disclosure guidance early in a disaster response (preferably before a disaster strikes) will help clear the way for timely and efficient information sharing with other foreign governments and militaries as well as humanitarian actors.

“Information sharing between humanitarians and military actors should contribute to having a common situational awareness as the response operation progresses.”

- UNOCHA UN-CMCoord Field Handbook

Best Practice: Promote and practice Civil-Military Information Sharing in training and exercises

Civil-Military Information Sharing should be promoted ahead of emergencies by including information sharing in training and exercises. Collaborating in exercises with international humanitarian organizations, particularly those that are likely to be involved in response efforts in the region, can lead to a better understanding of both the military's and the humanitarian organizations operations and policies and help with relationship building. Additionally, knowing the type of information available, what operational information is needed, and the methods of how each organization shares information, is essential to building a better response. Training and exercising with other responders has long been cited as important to success in an effective relief operation. Knowledge of and familiarization with people and organizations is a key factor in successful cooperation and coordination.

Additionally, during exercises is the time for information sharing platforms to be introduced and/or used more extensively, so that responders can familiarize themselves with the different means of managing and sharing information during response operations. It also allows for the opportunity to identify problem areas with information during an exercise vs. during a "real-world" response. It is the opportune time to introduce any mechanisms the military uses while familiarizing military personnel with commonly used humanitarian platforms for information management.

Best Practice: Promote face-to-face communication as a way to establish relationships and trust between civil-military responders

Face-to-face communication is an important way to begin to establish trust with other potential responders. Efforts should be made to reach out to humanitarian organizations (United Nations, NGOs, etc.) ahead of a humanitarian emergency in an effort to build personal and organizational contacts. It can be potentially detrimental to relations between civilian and military responders if military personnel drop in unannounced and uninvited during the first few hours after a disaster has struck due to the typical chaotic nature of the environment. As it is often said in the business: "It is best to exchange business cards ahead of an emergency." Specifically training liaison officers to be the Point of Contact (POC) with aid agencies is an additional step towards establishing and building relationships both at an individual (field level) and organizational level. Building trust and establishing relationships is the first and vital step towards effective information sharing.

Best Practice: Establish and Maintain organizational relationships

Once face-to-face communication has been established during exercises or in the field, it is often a natural next step to establish relationships at an organizational level. This evolution is necessary for optimal information sharing as individual staff members may come and go (PCS, retire, change organizations, etc.) both in the military and humanitarian worlds, therefore it is important to try and establish and maintain relationships at the organizational level. Maintaining organizational-level relationships between the military and humanitarian groups can allow for more opportunities for information sharing before, during and after an emergency response, as well as opportunities to practice information sharing during training and exercises, the discussion of information sharing issues during formal organizational level meetings, and allow for formal partnerships to be established.

Best Practice: Attempt to establish ways to share information ahead of time or develop an information sharing plan with other civil-military responders ahead of an emergency

Although not widely practiced, it has been noted in AARs and other reports that developing an information sharing plan in coordination with civilian and other military partners has been identified as a factor in the success of relief operations. Attempts should be made to develop information sharing plans ahead of time. This could be accomplished during shared training and exercises as well as during meetings between civil-military respondents. The development of an information sharing plan will not only save time and effort, but is likely to reduce duplication of effort and aid in streamlining the response process.

Best Practice: Work on communicating in a common language understood by both civilians and the military; additionally, ensure translation is available for responding forces to communicate in the local language

A commonly understood language is important to effective communication between military and civilian responders. Attempt to avoid acronyms, jargon, other phrasing, or “military-speak” that humanitarian workers may not understand. Conversely, seek to understand commonly used words and phrases that are common in the humanitarian world. Speak plainly and work towards a common vocabulary understood by all sides to avoid confusion.

Also, it may be an obvious point, but it bears repeating that ensuring translation is available for military forces to communicate in the local language of those affected by a disaster is crucial. English may not be the local or even primary language used by relief workers, depending on where the emergency has taken place. Military responders must adapt to working with whatever is the primary language of the government and affected population as well as relief agencies. Ideally, if military translators are available or can be brought in from other sources, military responders should bring their own translators to the field.

Best Practice: Military responders should familiarize themselves with collaborative tools used by civilian responders

Civilians use a broad range of collaborative information management tools, namely commercially available systems such as Google docs, dropbox, and other cloud services, while military responders are often restricted by what information management tools they are allowed to use. Additionally, humanitarian actors commonly use well established humanitarian information sharing portals such as ReliefWeb, Humanitarian Response.info, etc. (See “*FDR Information Resources*” section for more information).

It is important for the military responder to at least gain familiarity with what civilian responders are using to communicate and share information with other aid agencies. Knowing what information sharing and information management platforms are likely to be used ahead of a response may allow military command staff to gain permission to use these platforms where possible, understand possible restrictions in the use of these tools, and adapt to what systems humanitarian responders are utilizing.

Indo-Asia-Pacific Regional Mechanisms

Asia-Pacific Intelligence Chiefs Conference (APICC)

The annual Asia-Pacific Intelligence Chiefs Conference (APICC) is a senior-level conference led by USINDOPACOM J2 as its capstone international engagement event co-hosted by rotating partners in the region. The forum includes chiefs of military intelligence from some 28 partner nations across the region.

The forum has produced the “APICC Multinational Guidelines: Information Support to Military Disaster Relief Operations,” a valuable resource for the military responder.

These Guidelines provide a framework for information sharing operations during FDR support operations. These Guidelines are a collaborative effort among Indo-Asia Pacific countries, usable by any affected and assisting states, to develop a flexible humanitarian information sharing/management template in response to various disasters in the region.

The guidelines can be found here:

<https://community.apan.org/hadr/pacom-hadr/m/fha-files/181998>

ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance (AHA Centre)

Website: <https://ahacentre.org/>

The ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance (AHA Centre) was established by the ten ASEAN member nations on November 17, 2011.

The aim of the AHA Centre is to facilitate cooperation and coordination of disaster management among ASEAN members. The AHA Centre partners with international organizations such as the United Nations, IFRC, and international non-governmental organizations (INGOs). The AHA Centre is a good information resource for regional disaster updates. *(Please see “Indo-Asia-Pacific Regional Resources” section below for more information).*

Changi Regional HADR Coordinating Center (RHCC)

Website: <https://www.changirhcc.org/App/Pages/Main/MainPage.html>

The Changi Regional Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Coordinating Center (RHCC) was launched on September 12, 2014, by the Singapore Ministry of Defence. The Changi RHCC seeks to facilitate military-to-military coordination in international disaster responses by supporting the military of an affected state by helping to coordinate assistance from other foreign militaries. It accomplishes this in part with Liaison officers, deploying coordination units to affected areas, and with its OPERA Computer Information System (CIS). This information sharing system is used as a tool to help facilitate decision-making. It has been used in various responses, including the response to the Gorkha earthquake in Nepal in April 2015.

To subscribe to RHCC Weekly and Spot Reports, email: Changi_RHCC@defence.gov.sg

Regional Consultative Group (RCG)

Website: <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/asia/civil-military-coordination-working-group>

The Regional Consultative Group (RCG) on Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination for Asia and the Pacific began in 2014. It is a regional forum that aims to bring together humanitarian, civilian and military actors involved in disaster response and response planning in the Asia-Pacific region. Co-Secretariats of the forum are UNOCHA Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific and CFE-DM. Response and preparedness issues are discussed at the RCG, including information sharing issues. Within the RCG, the Information Sharing Working Group (ISWG) seeks to gather regional stakeholders to discuss information sharing issues at length at the working level and will present findings and solutions to the forum.

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (UNOCHA ROAP)

Website: <https://www.unocha.org/roap>

UNOCHA ROAP helps coordinate emergency preparedness and response in the Asia-Pacific region in support of the national governments in the region. Among its responsibilities, ROAP has worked with partners in the Asia-Pacific to tailor

regional guidance on humanitarian civil-military coordination (UN-CMCoord) in an effort to strengthen civil-military cooperation during a response and for response preparedness.

UNOCHA produces a variety of information products that are extremely useful before, during, and after a response, including SitReps, Maps, and Infographics. These can generally be found on ROAP's website or on popular humanitarian web platforms such as ReliefWeb and Humanitarian Response. (*See more information under the next section: "FDR Information Resources."*)

FDR Information Resources

The following is a short list of humanitarian information sharing sites and resources that military responders should familiarize themselves with.

US Government Information Resources

Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance – US lead federal agency in foreign disaster relief. For BHA updates on a disaster response, ask the BHA representative for the respective COCOM to add you to the email list:

- BHA.INDOPACOM@usaid.gov
- BHA.SOUTHCOCOM@usaid.gov
- BHA.NORTHCOM@usaid.gov
- BHA.AFRICOM@usaid.gov
- BHA.SOCOCOM@usaid.gov
- BHA.CENTCOM@usaid.gov
- BHA.EUCOCOM@usaid.gov

Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (CFE-DM) – a USINDOPACOM direct reporting unit.

Website: <http://www.cfe-dmha.org>

CFE-DM Disaster Management Reference Handbooks:

(For at least 22 countries): <https://www.cfe-dmha.org/DMHA-Resources/Disaster-Management-Reference-Handbooks>

CFE-DM Disaster Information Reports:

<https://www.cfe-dmha.org/Publications/Reports>

Pacific Disaster Center (PDC | Global)

Website: <https://www.PDC Global.org/>

The Pacific Disaster Center (PDC Global) has provided information and tools since 1996 for early warning and decision support. PDC Global's DisasterAware is a multi-hazard platform that monitors information sources for "Active Hazards" events. The software provides situational awareness and a suite of decision support tools.

DisasterAWARE / Emergency Operations (EMOPS) system:
(Request account): <https://emops.pdc.org/emops/>
To subscribe to PDC Global reports email: esponse@pdc.org

All Partners Access Network (APAN)

Website: <https://www.apan.org>

APAN is an online site developed to enable collaboration, information and knowledge sharing between the U.S. Department of Defense (DOD), multinational organizations, coalitions and non-government agencies who do not have access to traditional DOD networks and systems. APAN is the Unclassified Information Sharing Service (UISS) for the DOD.

Humanitarian Information Sources:

Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC)

Visit the following web page for information on the latest humanitarian emergencies the ETC is involved in. Each page includes SitReps, maps, contact information, updates, project documentation, etc.

For current emergencies see: <https://www.etcluster.org/emergencies>

Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System (GDACS)

Website: <http://www.gdacs.org/>

GDACS provides alerts of natural disasters around the world to help facilitate response coordination. GDACS is a cooperation framework between the UN, the European Commission and disaster managers to improve information exchange and coordination in the first phase after major disasters. GDACS is an excellent site for disaster alerts. The latest alerts can be found here: <http://www.gdacs.org/Alerts/default.aspx>

To subscribe: <http://www.gdacs.org/About/contactus.aspx>

Humanitarian Country Teams (HCT)

The HCT is a strategic and operational decision-making and oversight forum established and led by the Humanitarian Coordinator in each country. It is generally comprised of representatives from the UN, IOM, international NGOs, and the Red Cross/Red Crescent Movement. During a disaster response, HCT's often produce a Situation Report, often in conjunction with UNOCHA. Most HCT SitReps can be found through ReliefWeb: <https://reliefweb.int/>.

However, some can be subscribed to such as:

HCT Indonesia: Nur Raihan, Public Information Officer, nur.raihan@un.org

HCT Philippines: ochaphilippines@un.org

Humanitarian Data Exchange (HDX)

Website: <https://data.humdata.org/>

HDX is an open platform for sharing data across organizations and crises. A relatively new platform launched in 2014, it is managed by OCHA's Centre for Humanitarian Data. The goal of the site is to make humanitarian data easy to use and find for analysis.

Humanitarian Response

Website: <https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/>

The purpose of Humanitarian Response is to support efficient, effective, and coordinated humanitarian response through the sharing of operational information. The target audience are those deployed to respond to disasters and complex emergencies.

Logistics Cluster

Website: <https://www.logcluster.org>

Although with a focus on logistics during the response, the Logistics Cluster, headed by the WFP, is a good source of information, such as daily Situation Reports, during an emergency response.

ReliefWeb

Website: <https://reliefweb.int/>

Most popular and widely used platform for humanitarian information. Reliefweb collects information, including the latest reports, maps and infographics. It is a specialized digital service of UNOCHA.

Virtual OSOCC

Website: <https://vosocc.unocha.org/>

The Virtual On-Site Operations Coordination Centre (Virtual OSOCC, or VOSOCC) is a web-based information management tool developed by OCHA, and is a partner of the Global Disaster Alert and Coordination System (GDACS). The VOSOCC is particularly useful for pre-deployment coordination and is well used by the UN Disaster Assessment and Coordination Team (UNDAC), Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) and Foreign Medical Teams (FMTs).

Indo-Asia-Pacific Regional Information Resources:

The ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre)

For situation updates, flash updates, and weekly disaster updates on disasters

in the 10 ASEAN countries (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam), go to <https://ahacentre.org>

Subscribe at <https://ahacentre.org/subscribe-to-flash-update/>, or email info@ahacentre.org.

Changi Regional HADR Coordination Centre (RHCC) – Singapore Ministry of Defense.

To subscribe to Changi RHCC’s weekly or spot reports on regional disasters, email: CHANGI_RHCC@defence.gov.sg

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (UNOCHA ROAP)
<https://www.unocha.org/roap>

For UNOCHA situation reports, click on “Subscribe” button on bottom of page.



Photo caption: The second annual Focus In event in May 2018 was held at the CFE-DM headquarters building on Ford Island. The three-day event saw a select group of civilian and military experts and stakeholders focus on the current state of information sharing and research collaboration related to civil-military coordination in a shared operational environment, especially humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations. Participants included the Pacific Disaster Center, Australian Civil-Military Centre, World Food Programme, Naval War College, James Cook University, University of Hawaii at Manoa, Changi RHCC, AHA Centre, Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and others. Photo Source: CFE-DM

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"Department of Defense Support to Foreign Disaster Relief (Handbook for JTF Commanders and Below)," <https://fas.org/irp/doddir/dod/disaster.pdf>

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"Joint Publication (JP) 3-29 Foreign Humanitarian Assistance," <http://www.jag.navy.mil/distrib/instructions/JP3-29FHA.pdf>

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United States Agency for International Development (USAID), <https://www.usaid.gov/>

USAID Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance (BHA), <https://www.usaid.gov/humanitarian-assistance>
Virtual OSOCC, <https://vosocc.unocha.org/>

World Food Program (WFP), <http://www1.wfp.org/>



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