



CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE IN DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE
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FOCUS IN, 2019

SUMMARY REPORT





FOCUS IN, 2019 Summary Report

1. Executive Summary

FOCUS IN, 2019 is the third annual event sponsored by the Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (CFE-DM) which coincides with the 25th Anniversary of its inception. The purpose was to gather a group of experts from international humanitarian organizations and academic institutions to discuss specific humanitarian assistance and disaster response (HA/DR) related topics. This year's event focused on regional organizations and mega-disaster planning efforts in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region in order to increase potential areas of collaboration, as well as an update to on-going Information Sharing efforts conducted by CFE-DM and other stakeholders. The event was held at CFE-DM from 24-25 July 2019. Regional disaster management initiatives, recent natural disasters, and information sharing challenges in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region were woven into the agenda for relevancy and transmission of up-to-date case studies, approaches, and information for participants. Additionally, a one-day Senior Leader's Seminar was held following FOCUS IN 2019 on 26 July 2019 which was developed for Admiral Phillip Davidson, Commander, USINDOPACOM Commander, and numerous other USINDOPACOM senior leaders.

Regional organizations play a critical role in planning and coordination of disaster response operations in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region. They all have close knit relationship amongst nations within their own sub-region and have developed over years of experience and responding to disaster events their own established response mechanisms. 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-Asia-Pacific communities exploring and incorporating disaster planning and information sharing tenets in their strategies to combat natural disaster and complex emergency challenges.

The FOCUS IN 2019 participants consisted of thirty-two professionals from supporting organizations in the region, to include: World Food Programme (WFP), University of South Pacific, RHCC Singapore, Australian Civil-Military Centre, AHA Centre, UN OCHA Bangkok, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency, RedR Australia, International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), USAID OFDA, and Pacific Disaster Center - Global, U.S. Pacific Fleet, U.S. Pacific Air Forces, U.S. Marine Corps Forces – Pacific, and U.S. Indo-Pacific Command.

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 topics.

The purpose of this report is to provide a review of the planning, execution, and observations garnered from the FOCUS IN 2019 workshop, recognizing the successes and challenges, and providing recommendations for improving upon future FOCUS IN workshops. The report incorporates feedback from all CFE-DM branches, supporting staff, invited faculty and participants.

2. Workshop Goals & Objectives

FOCUS IN, 2019 is the third annual event sponsored by the Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (CFE-DM) and its intent was 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 agenda promoted a multidisciplinary approach while remaining germane 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-Asia-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 the various regional organizations found in the region and the established response mechanisms and planning efforts each has.
- Discuss information-sharing projects in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region to identify areas for mutual support;
- Discuss how the US Whole-of-Government response fits into and enhances the regional response architectures;
- Discuss the broader implications and the likely future intentions of China in the HADR environment, and;
- Discuss ways to assess, plan, manage and evaluate disaster-planning efforts with identified mega-disaster prone countries in response to major humanitarian crises in the region.

3. Agenda & Content

Overall Comments

The workshop provided a blend of interactive learning approaches through presentations, group discussions, and roundtable discussions addressing the major coordination and planning issues faced by the disaster response community. Regional Organization overviews, current response mechanisms and agreements, disaster planning, 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 two-day workshop.

CFE-DM and FOCUS IN 2019 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

A total of 10 presentations were delivered throughout the two-day workshop, representing 9 hours of content incorporated into the agenda. Six participant presentations provided an opportunity for course participants to draw upon and share a relevant experience in their field related to natural disasters, complex humanitarian emergencies, humanitarian action or related research. A five to ten-minute question and answer session followed each presentation as an opportunity for other participants, or team members, to interact on the presentation material.

4. Summaries of the Sessions

Regional Organizations Session

One ASEAN, One Response (Janggam Adhityawarma, AHA Centre)

Mr. Janggam Adhityawarma, acting Director of Operations at the AHA Centre, kicked off the working group sessions with an overview presentation of ASEAN's One ASEAN, One Response concept which its vision is for all of ASEAN to collectively respond together during disaster events in the region. The ASEAN disaster response mechanism and coordination frameworks was thoroughly explained, as well as recent real-world examples were discussed. Additionally, Mr. Adhityawarma went over the various documents that provide strategic and operational guidance to the ASEAN disaster response process. Also, the critical role that the AHA Centre plays during the response with coordinating assistance from other Member States, both civil and military, and also to facilitate communication across the operating environment.

HA/DR in Oceania (Dr. Kristie Barrow, ACMC)

Dr. Kristie Barrow, Director of International and Domestic Engagements, Australian Civil-Military Centre, gave a key presentation on Oceania and how disaster management and response is conducted in that region. Her presentation highlighted the current landscape of the different stakeholders in the region and the overall state of HA/DR engagement in the Pacific. Additionally for context and background the regional disaster response architecture was described in detail and how it plays into the current efforts in the region. One of the key points that were brought up was the current challenges that Oceania faces with HA/DR:

- Cyclone/disaster Seasono
 - o Impact of climate change including national security
- Different sizes, capabilities amongst countries
 - o Tyranny of distance
- Limited capacity within institutions
 - o Impact of donor efforts
 - o Oceania has only 3 nations with militaries

Some strategies on how to engage with Pacific Island nations were discussed and of particular importance was the ability to recognize that Oceania is a unique operating environment and it requires tailored responses. Also, more is not necessarily better and consideration on the cost of our presence has on individual nations but also in the region as a whole. The emphasis on the “Pacific supporting the Pacific” is a concept that supports building resiliency among the island nations but also strengthens the region through mutual aid and collaboration.

China and HA/DR in the Asia-Pacific (Ms. Susan Vesel, USINDOPACOM, China SFG)

Ms. Susan Vesel representing the China Strategic Focus Group from USINDOPACOM gave a brief on how China's government views HA/DR and it leverages its efforts in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region. It was important to first establish how China's strategic goals inform their domestic and foreign policies which focuses on national rejuvenation through modernization and expanded global influence. In

terms of strategic importance to China, international HA/DR efforts are viewed as an opportunity to build domestic capabilities, and benignly strengthen their influence throughout the region by engaging with nations and establishing relationships within the HA/DR context. China sees HA/DR as contributing factor in the achievement of their larger objectives and is working to expand its own disaster management capacity and expand outwards to share their expertise with others in the region. Some of the key highlights of how strategic goals inform Chinese government decisions about when and how to engage in response:

- Following national strategies; China prefers to undertake HADR activities that does not lead to political interference by focusing in natural disaster rather than complex emergencies
- Preference for continued bilateral engagement with a host government rather than working through international organizations
- Selected involvement in multilateral institutions where it is able to influence and reform institutions to favor Chinese perspective
- HADR as opportunity to showcase diplomatic narratives such as South South cooperation; developing countries helping developing countries
- Promote its reputation as a responsible global leader by highlighting China's efforts in multi-lateral response efforts and branded donations.

Information Sharing Session

CFE-DM Information Sharing Update (Dr. Alberto Morales and Mr. Alan Aoki, CFE-DM)

Dr. Alberto Morales, CFE-DM Applied Research and Information Sharing (ARIS) Branch Chief, convened a discussion session with participants to discuss civil-military information sharing in disasters. He was assisted by Mr. Alan Aoki of the ARIS branch. Dr. Morales outlined the group objectives of the information sharing discussion. The intent of the first briefing was to lay the groundwork for group discussion on HADR information sharing with a focus on HADR satellite imagery sharing. Dr. Morales also presented the CFE Command brief to familiarize session participants with the ARIS branch. This included a discussion of the mission and objectives of ARIS, information products produced by ARIS, and a discussion of applied research projects and information sharing initiatives undertaken by the branch. A review of last year's Focus In discussion on research topics was held before the presentation transitioned to HADR information sharing.

Lessons learned and best practices on HADR information sharing was discussed, followed by potential regional solutions for information sharing. HADR imagery sharing as a potential discussion point for the group on imagery sharing between the military and civilians was presented in hopes of eliciting dialogue amongst group members.

HADR Imagery Sharing (Adam Pittson, NGA HADR)

Mr. Adam Pittson, National Geo-Spatial Intelligence Agency (NGA) HADR team lead at the Joint Intelligence Operations Center, USINDOPACOM, briefed on HADR imagery sharing. Adam has extensive experience with geo-spatial imagery and has worked with the NGA since 2006. He has worked on a variety of disaster responses, including for Typhoon Haiyan, which hit the Philippines in 2013.

Adam explained that the NGA HADR team has four personnel that have worked on some 50-60 HADR events. Among the services provided to USINDOPACOM personnel, the team provides GEOINT support to HADR operations as well as a GEOINT training program. This year alone, the training program has helped train around 60 people. The NGA HADR team focuses on providing support on humanitarian issues within USINDOPACOM. During his briefing, Adam covered HADR imagery sharing from the NGA perspective and Geospatial support to HADR operations. Imagery is shared from Digital Globe, which assists greatly in pre- and post- damage assessments. However, the team focuses on providing finished products rather than just providing raw data on HADR events. During the Palu, Indonesia earthquake and tsunami response in 2018, the team provided support by identifying isolated villages in need of emergency relief. The NGA team provides two types of products, a “phase 1” product and a “phase 2” product. APAN was utilized by the NGA to post satellite imagery during disaster responses.

Civil-Military Imagery and Information Sharing (Silke Banuelos-Kuang, HAO/CMCOORD Officer –UNOCHA ROAP)

Ms. Silke Banuelos-Kuang, from the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) Regional Office of Asia and the Pacific (ROAP), presented a brief on Civil-Military Imagery and Information Sharing. Silke gave an overview of the usage of satellite imagery from the humanitarian perspective, utilizing examples from Mongolia, Mozambique, Lao floods, and Cyclone Winston in Fiji. Imagery is often received from the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR's) Operational Satellite Applications Programme (UNOSAT). Humanitarian assessments are usually done utilizing civilian and military assets. The Disaster Impact Model is used by UNOCHA at the start of a disaster. It is used to determine how many people are going to be affected by the disaster and satellite imagery is used to confirm assumptions. Silke reviewed the usage of satellite imagery in disaster response. During response, imagery is useful for analysis to assist with prediction and prioritization. However, the usage of imagery becomes challenging when access to the internet is difficult. UNOCHA mostly focuses on coordination and therefore does not have the expertise and time to deal with satellite imagery. UNOCHA is a partner to UNOSAT and acts as an interface for other groups. Satellite imagery usage during a complex emergency differs from usage during a complex emergency. For example, in African peacekeeping missions, humanitarians cannot request open images as it will affect neutrality. Peacekeepers also utilize drones, which are useful in massive displacements and tracking down rebels. In Cox's Bazar, imagery was used to track down where camps were located. Imagery can and is used as a foreign Military and Civilian Defense Asset (MCDA) that can be utilized by the humanitarian community.

Disaster Aware Information Sharing Platform (Dr. Erin Hughey, PDC-Global)

Disaster AWARE, an early warning and multi-hazard monitoring platform, was presented by Dr. Erin Hughey, Director of Disaster Services, at PDC Global. Dr. Hughey stated that PDC is a partner with NGA and UNOCHA and started with an overview of DisasterAWARE, which provides decisions makers with a tool for making informed decisions on HADR issues or response to natural disasters. The software provides many useful features, such as an automated advisory for all hazards, providing actionable highlights. A key feature of the platform is information collaboration. Dr. Hughey went on to review the

use of DisasterAWARE during several real-world responses including Typhoon Yutu, Super Typhoon Mangkhut, and an earthquake in Gutad, Philippines. PDC is working on joint products with WFP, OCHA, and ASEAN. Lastly, Dr. Hughey unveiled a “sneak peek” at a new product under DisasterAWARE called “Event brief.” For each event that occurs, the system will deliver the most important data to the user, including historical events in the region over a period of time, recent reports from various organizations, risk and vulnerability, live camera feeds, social media updates and information sharing assistance.

Mega-Disaster Planning Session

Mega Disaster Planning (Silke Banuelos Kuang, HAO/CMCOORD Officer –UNOCHA ROAP)

Ms. Banuelos-Kuang briefed on mega-disasters in the region and their efforts in the area of disaster response planning, specifically the five mega-disaster countries of the Philippines (earthquake), Indonesia (Mentawai Megathrust earthquake/tsunami), Myanmar (cyclone), Nepal (Kathmandu earthquake) and Bangladesh (cyclone). These efforts are a focus of the annual Regional Consultative Group (RCG), a regional forum that brings together humanitarian, civilian and military actors involved in disaster response preparedness planning and disaster response in the region. The RCG was formed to discuss response preparedness (focusing on civil-military coordination), facilitate exchanges of information and innovative ideas to enable well-coordinated response to a range of humanitarian emergency operations, and to strengthen linkages to regional and global organizations.

ASEAN Joint Disaster Response Plan (Janggam Adhityawarma, AHA Centre)

Mr. Adhityawarma briefed on the ASEAN Joint Disaster Response Plan (AJDRP) which provides a common framework to deliver a timely, at scale and joint ASEAN response through mobilization of required assets and capacities for the ASEAN mega-disaster countries (Myanmar, Philippines, and Indonesia). Specifically, the AJDRP:

- Increases the speed of the ASEAN response by supporting the ASEAN Member States in making timely and informed decisions
- Expands the scale of the ASEAN response by strengthening the ASEAN standby arrangements
- Enhances the solidarity of the ASEAN response by strengthening coordination and cooperation among ASEAN Member States, ASEAN partners, and other humanitarian actors

US Indo-Pacific Command Foreign Humanitarian Assistance Concept of Operations (COL Erik Hillberg, USA – USINDOPACOM J35)

USINDOPACOM J35 briefed on the Foreign Humanitarian Assistance Concept of Operations (FHA Conops). They stressed the military is primarily focused on relief vice recovery and that INDOPACOM works directly with the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) in all HADR matters. J35 also stressed that they do not have legal authority to direct funding to support humanitarian missions.

The major takeaway from the presentation was to ensure INDOPACOM forces have situational awareness on what is being done in theater by external organizations (i.e. AHA Center and UNOCHA) and factor these activities into all HADR planning and exercise efforts. Additionally, a joint understanding of civil and military roles and statutory responsibilities, is critical pre, during, and post disaster.

5. Senior Leader's Seminar

The Senior Leader Seminar (SLS) followed two full days of the FOCUS-IN event and working groups. The SLS was developed for Admiral Phillip Davidson, Commander, USINDOPACOM Commander, and numerous other USINDOPACOM senior leaders. The SLS went exceptionally well with few issues. The senior leaders in attendance, anchored by Major General Minihan, USINDOPACOM Chief of Staff, were engaged in the discussion on FHA authorities and the Pacific to the point that a significant portion of the agenda was not covered. The key facilitators were Mr. Joe Martin and Adrian Duaine. However, as planned, guest lecturers shared an equal amount of briefing time. Guest lectures by the USINDOPACOM J06, UN OCHA, Australia Civil-Military Centre, and the Pacific Resilience Partnership made up the majority of the session briefings.

The SLS demonstrated significant value in connecting senior leaders, increasing USINDOPACOM senior leader awareness of the SLS content areas but even more importantly the strength of broader relationships and community of practice of relevant stakeholders in disaster response and humanitarian assistance in the USINDOPACOM AOR. Given the stakes and shifting U.S. strategy, the value in broadening USINDOPACOM senior leaders' understanding of U.S. foreign humanitarian assistance and what is really going on with the region and international response community cannot be overstated. Moreover, strong research and planning is required for briefing and developing value for senior leaders. The SLS content and briefing script reflected the CFE-DM facilitator team's preparation and command of the relevant topics and conversation on current Foreign Disaster Relief policy and authorities and the situation in the Southwest Pacific. For example, clearly threaded indirectly through the Pacific conversation was a recognition of the big drivers of the conversation, climate change and risks, China, and changing U.S. strategy.

6. Summary

The FOCUS IN 2019 Workshop required considerable planning and development of partnerships, culminating in the successful delivery of a Two-Day of agenda content for participants and building capacity with our partner organizations in the Indo-Asia-Pacific communities to explore and incorporate information sharing tenets in their strategies to combat natural disaster and complex emergency challenges. CFE-DM's partnerships will continue to evolve, lending itself to future events and collaborative opportunities outside of the course for research, disaster planning, information sharing, and training and education engagements. The Center will continue to strengthen and learn from the challenges and opportunities identified in the 2019 FOCUS workshop to improve not only our efforts going forward but shape the direction of disaster management in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.



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