



Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) Exercise 2018

2018 marks the 26th iteration of RIMPAC, the world’s largest international maritime exercise. With inclusivity at its core, RIMPAC fosters multi-national cooperation and trust, enhances interoperability, enables professional engagement while building capable and adaptive partners. The objective of RIMPAC 2018 was to enhance the interoperability of a combined RIMPAC force across the full spectrum of military operations in the maritime environment. Capabilities exercised ranged from disaster relief and maritime security operations to sea control and complex warfighting.

RIMPAC 2018 HADR Exercise

The Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (CFE-DM) provided subject matter expertise during the HADR phase of RIMPAC. To the maximum extent possible, subject matter experts in concert with others, ensured the scenario emulated the multifaceted disaster response environment including the complexities of civil-military coordination that responding military forces would encounter during real world relief efforts. This civilian and military multi-national exercise provided maritime, medical, engineering and aviation personnel an opportunity to exercise collectively with a common earthquake / tsunami scenario. Military forces coordinated with a fictional affected state military and other responding nations’ militaries through a Multi-national Coordination Center (MNCC). The humanitarian community coordinated through a Humanitarian Military Operations Coordination Center (HuMOCC) responding to assessed needs and emergent requests from the affected state and key civilian organizations supporting the disaster relief effort. The HADR phase of RIMPAC also provided an opportunity for the State of Hawaii to exercise civil-military operations including Aeromedical, Ground and Sea Patient Movement to all participating Hawaii Health Emergency Management Emergency Services (HHEMES) coalition hospitals on four islands and two States (Hawaii and Washington State).

Countries Participating in the HADR Exercise

- Australia
- Canada
- Columbia
- Chile
- France
- Germany
- Indonesia
- Japan
- New Zealand
- Peru
- Philippines
- Vietnam
- Germany
- United States

Civilian Participants

RIMPAC 2018 incorporated experts from several humanitarian organizations and academic institutions. Leveraging the knowledge and experience from this diverse group of actors significantly enhanced the quality of the HADR training courses and provided a sense of realism to the exercise. Humanitarian Organizations and Academic Institutions who took part in the academics and/or exercise included:

- UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
- International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)
- International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC)
- American Red Cross
- US Agency for International Development Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)
- Naval War College Civil-Military Humanitarian Response Program
- Harvard Humanitarian Initiative
- Oxford University Refugee Studies Centre
- Lehigh University
- Stanford University
- Team Rubicon
- Global Support and Development





TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDED DURING THE 2018 RIMPAC HADR EXERCISE

- Reopening of ports, airfields, and air traffic control operations
- Airlift and Aero-medical evacuations
- Harbormaster port and channel traffic control
- Engineering capabilities, debris clearing and removal
- Organic medical support / provision of medical services
- Surface transportation, supply, distribution, and base camp support
- Civil Affairs / Civil Information Management

RIMPAC 2018 HADR Academics

CFE-DM, in coordination with UN OCHA, IFRC, ICRC, the American Red Cross, USAID OFDA and the Naval War College Civilian-Military Humanitarian Response Program, led the development and execution of three HADR training courses. The three courses included an introductory level HADR Symposium, an HADR Planners' Course and Senior Leaders' Forum. The goal of these courses was to provide a foundation of knowledge tailored for exercise participants, thus preparing them to better understand the roles and responsibilities of foreign military forces responding to natural disasters. Discussion subject matter, case studies, and course exercises correlated to the RIMPAC 2018 scenario.

RIMPAC 2018 HADR Information Fair

An HADR Information Fair was held during the exercise scenario scene-setter providing an opportunity for exercise participants to ask questions and obtain more information about organizations such as CFE-DM, UN OCHA, IFRC and the American Red Cross.

