



## Background

The Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (CFE-DM)'s Applied Research and Information Sharing (ARIS) Branch functions to build capacity among disaster management and humanitarian assistance decision makers. ARIS develops country-focused disaster management reference books based on open-source research, creates scenario-based case studies, and produces after action reports and other information products. Additionally, ARIS provides best practices and lessons learned for improved coordination in disaster responses, and serves as a research resource within the U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM), responding to requests for information on issues and historical events in the region.

ARIS works closely with academic organizations to facilitate research on specific problems and research projects in disaster risk reduction and management, including civil-military coordination. Through a variety of formal partnerships and growing collaborations, CFE-DM leverages research investments in disaster management and humanitarian assistance to build capacity among potential responders, decision makers, and other operational supporters. Specific projects and research collaborations are discussed below.

## Academic Year 2019-2020

### Columbia University — School of International and Public Affairs:

CFE-DM has an ongoing collaboration with the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA), which began in 2016. For the most recent academic year, CFE-DM requested the SIPA team to review Nepal disaster management laws, frameworks, and after action reports, combined with conducting interviews in-country with responders to the Nepal 2015 earthquake, in order to identify areas of strength and potential improvement to strengthen disaster management and interagency communication and coordination. This methodological approach is also being considered with other countries.

### University of Texas at Austin:

This partnership is considering a range of research projects focusing on current and potential actions that island countries in Oceania and partner nations can undertake to increase effective disaster preparedness and management.

### Naval War College:

NWC and CFE-DM is exploring the concept of how humanitarian actors can rapidly understand broader interconnected urban infrastructure systems. They are interested in how urban humanitarian responses should be adapted to address cascading failures.

### New America:

New America's Phase Zero Project seeks to redefine security building for the twenty-first century "competitive space." Using big data and a range of analytical tools, CFE-DM and New America are researching the root causes of war today, looking at water, energy, food, natural disasters, governance, demographics, historic community tensions, cross-border conflict, great power competition, and how climate change will affect how all of these variables may pose risks to peace.

CFE-DM collaborates frequently with partners during workshops, conferences, and exercises to facilitate research across the field of disaster management, including disaster risk reduction and civil-military coordination, linking academia directly with developing operational initiatives and stakeholders. Throughout academic year 2019-2020, the Center has consolidated myriad research topics to address humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations and regional coordination challenges.



### **Air Force Institute of Technology:**

The Institute is interested in improvements to methodologies, tools and analysis for post disaster needs and recovery assessment. This topic was conceived to explore innovative methods, better tools and improved analysis to decrease assessment fatigue and increase targeted assessment in post disaster events. The topic also explores what is needed through certain time phases of emergencies and a flexible framework for comprehensive need assessments to be conducted to minimize wasted resources and drive effective resource mobilization.

### **James Cook University:**

The University is exploring how civil-military coordination can reinforce or constrict movements during a response to pandemics. In response to this challenge, CFE-DM and James Cook University's College of Public Health, Medical and Veterinary Sciences in Cairns, Australia are collaborating in this area of humanitarian response.

### **University of Hawaii:**

CFE-DM currently has a Memorandum of Understanding with the University's Office of Public Health Studies. This partnership may look at disaster management strategies in the Pacific, including mitigation against and adaptation to climate change.

## **Internship Program**

The ARIS branch also coordinates an internship program at CFE-DM through USINDOPACOM. Graduate and undergraduate students have the opportunity to focus their research and write on a dedicated topic of interest relating to disaster management, humanitarian assistance, or larger humanitarian crisis issues throughout the several months they spend with the center.

**Past:** University of California, San Diego  
Seattle Pacific University

**Current:** University of California, Los Angeles:

This project with the university reviews and analyzes how the phenomenon of human trafficking contributes to and is exacerbated by humanitarian crises. The project considers the issue within the larger context of protection of civilians, particularly in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.

## **New Collaborations**

CFE-DM is also collaborating on potential research projects with colleagues from the following:

- Brown University
- Yale University
- Fiji National University
- The University of the South Pacific (USP)
- Nanyang Technological University — S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS)
- Navy Postgraduate School

### **INTERESTED IN PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES WITH CFE-DM?**

If you are interested in partnering with the Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance, please contact Dr. Alberto Morales, Jr. @ +1 (808) 472-0480; alberto.morales1@navy.mil or Mr. Alan Aoki at +1 (808) 472-0440; alan.aoki.ctr@cfe-dmha.org



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