

**18<sup>th</sup> ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Disaster  
Relief  
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*Civil-Military Cooperation in Responding to  
Disaster: Role of the Lao People's Army in  
HADR Operations*

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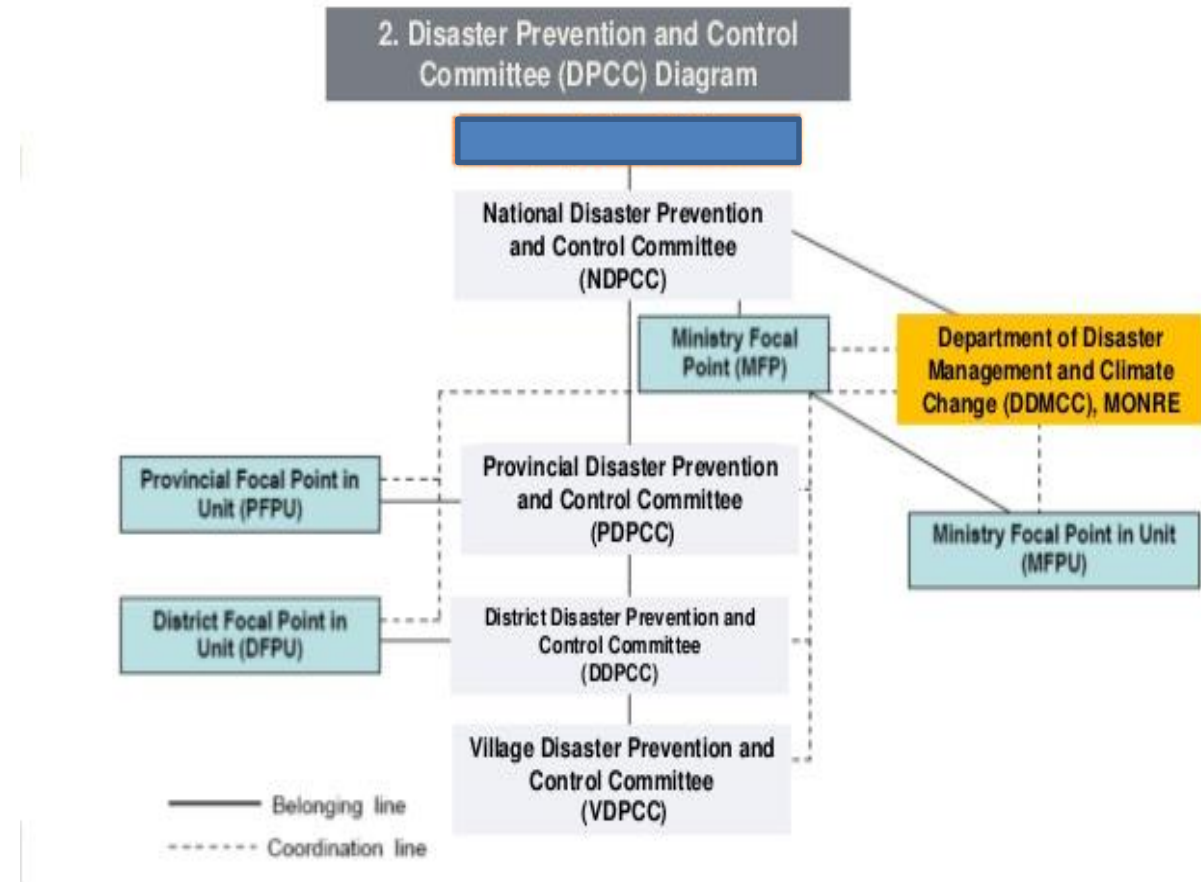
# Key Points Discussed:

- Roles & Responsibilities of the Lao People's Army (LPA) in HADR;
- International Cooperation of the LPA in HADR;
- Impediments/Challenges of Civil-Military, HADR Cooperation & Disaster Response;
- Recommendations.

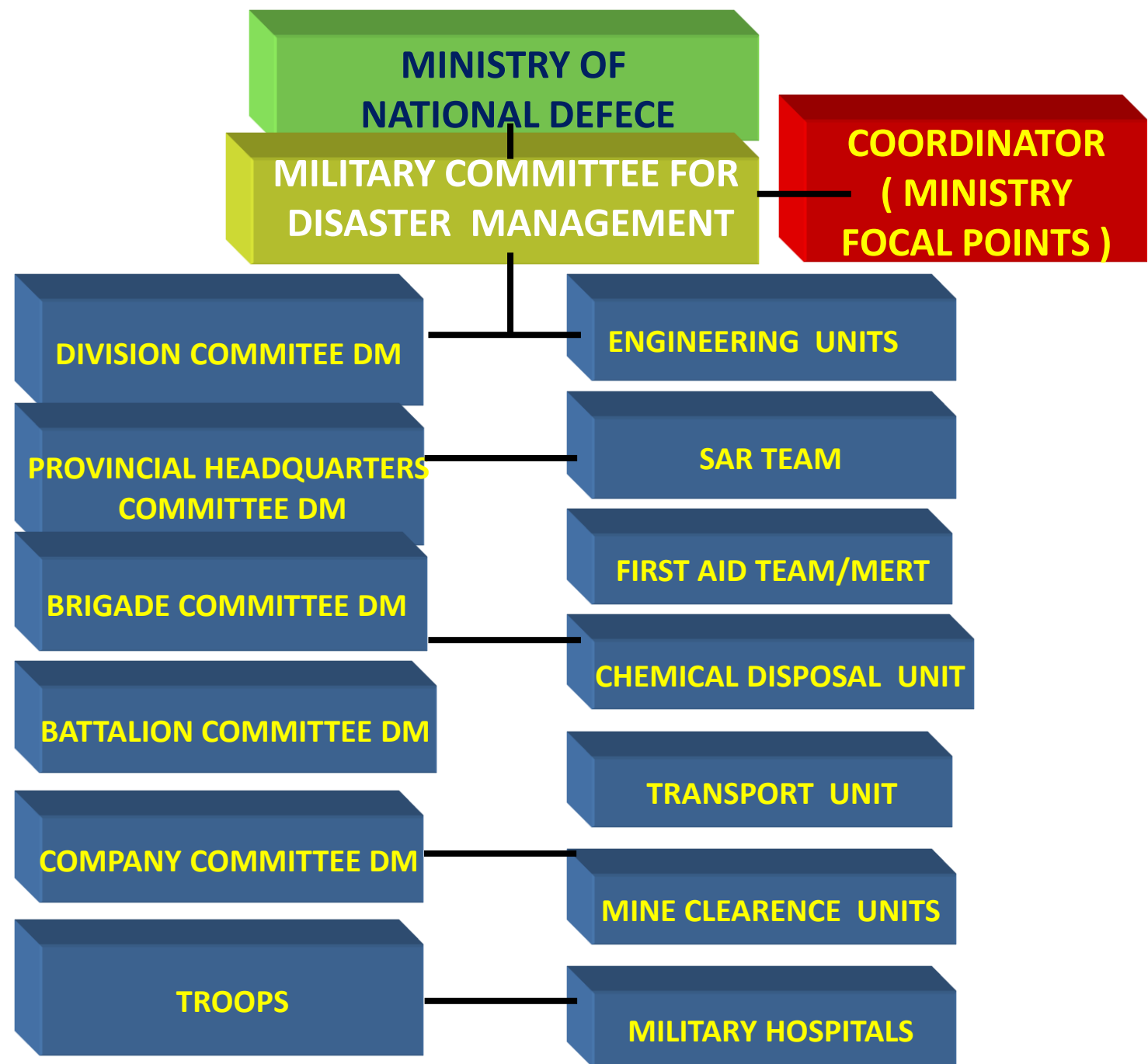
# **NOTE:** This presentation based on some edu research, professional experiences, observations & personal views.

# ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE LPA IN HADR

- ❖ LPA –one of key components of National Disaster Prevention & Control Committee (NDPCC);
- ❖ Has role to coordinate & work in collaboration with concerned stakeholders on disaster/HADR matters:
  - ✓ NDPCC;
  - ✓ MSLW;
  - ✓ MoFA; &
  - ✓ Other relevant orgs



- ❖ Military Disaster Management Committee (MDMC) –formed since 2007;
- ❖ Composed of military establishments at different levels;
- ❖ Set up plans & initiatives with regard to disaster management & response;
- ❖ Carry out disaster preparedness activities & SAR operations;



- ❖ Rehabilitate & mitigate the effect on population;
- ❖ Build shelters & damaged infrastructure such as repairing roads, bridges, etc;
- ❖ Provide basic needs & health services for affected people;
- ❖ Clear land mines (UXOs);



- ❖ Enhance HADR capacity building for mil personnel –conduct of edu & training programs internally & externally;
- ❖ Exercise such other rights & perform such other duties as assigned by higher-level authorities.



# INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION



- LPA's HADR cooperation in ADMM, ADMM-Plus, ACDFM & other related ASEAN Mil establishments;
- Co-Chairmanship of LPA – Japan Self Defence Forces on ADMM-Plus EWG on HADR 2014-2016:
  - ✓ MNCC SOP;



- ❖ Conduct of joint Ex –AMHEX 2016;
- ❖ ASEAN capacity building program, esp on HADR, initiated by LPA & Japan SDF under “*Vientiane Vision*”;
- ❖ LPA – Japan SDF & Royal Thai Armed Forces’ Conduct of seminars & trainings on HADR: SAR & MERT;
- ❖ Participate in HADR activities under ADMM-Plus HADR EWG –meetings, seminars, workshops, TTX, FTX, COMMEX, etc;





- ❖ Cooperate with foreign forces to respond to disasters. Eg. Attapeu disaster incident;
- ❖ LPA played important part in responding to the disaster;
- ❖ Worked with govt agencies & other external partners including foreign forces to mobilise resources & capacities to carry out SAR & HADR Ops to help the affected communities;
- ❖ **THANK YOU AGAIN** for all assistance & contribution to disaster relief in Laos.



# IMPEDIMENTS / CHALLENGES

- ✓ HADR –a complex, complicated issue –Today's increasing disasters lead to huge burden of resources; thus leading to insufficient support;
- ✓ In many certain circumstances, HADR operations in Laos –geographically challenging; thus resulting in ineffective implementation
- ✓ Coordination between & among concerned authorities – vague & ineffective in some certain areas;

# IMPEDIMENTS / CHALLENGES (Cont)

- ✓ Lack of resources, tools, knowledge & information sharing among civil & military establishments/orgs;
- ✓ Knowledge & experiences in HADR operations, esp disaster response, -relatively new (new experience);
- ✓ Adjusting to new technological applications & today's complex HADR management takes a considerable amount of time & resources;

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- ✓ Lay out legal frameworks; to build & further develop SOP on HADR operations, coordination, disaster response & other specific tasks for LPA;
- ✓ Work closely with the government & other relevant agencies to share & exchange information, knowledge & best practices;
- ✓ Continue to strengthen HADR cooperation with external partners through existing mechanisms, especially ADMM & ADMM-Plus, to enhance capabilities, resources & potentialities;
- ✓ Raise awareness of disaster matters to all people at all levels to increase active commitment, contribution & collective efforts.

## CONCLUSION

- ❖ LPA –one of integral HADR elements, not only in its internal HADR matters, but also plays active role in international HADR cooperation;
- ❖ LPA's recent HADR cooperation & operations –seen as early, positive development/critical foundation;
- ❖ Obstacles & challenges (new development) –believed to be addressed in the ongoing process.

**THANK YOU**