

ARF DiREx 2013

Initial Planning Conference

Field Training Exercise Working Group Meetings/Site Survey

14-16 January 2013

The meeting was co-chaired by Col. Sungkom Piamviriyawong from the Royal Thai Armed Forces and Mr. MinKyu Lee from the National 119 Rescue Service and was attended by representatives from ARF countries, AHA, Centre, UNOCHA and IFRC. The Thai co-chair briefed the Conference on the Field Training Exercise (FTX) component of the ARF DiREx 2013.

Working Group Discussion – 14 January 2013

- Thailand briefed the Meeting of the proposed details of the Field Training Exercise (FTX), which will include the following areas:

1. EOC and Joint OSOCC (UNOCHA and AHA Centre) (Site A)

EOC is a disaster relief mechanism at a tactical and operational level and the main operational center is the national operational center in Bangkok. The EOC shall comprise of members of the local government, including representatives from all affected provinces, lead by civilians with the support of the military. The UNOCHA (for this exercise shall be International countries excluding 10 AMS) and AHA Centre (10 AMS) shall also be stationed at the EOC.

- Exercise logistics support, relief and supply trucks, helicopter parking, satellite and telecommunication system will be set up near the EOC.

- A medical hospital to administer level 2 treatments will be set up near the EOC and directly across from the evacuation campsite.

2. Rockslide SAR (Site B)

Rescue teams can bring canines to participate in the SAR. Both dummies and live persons will be used in this exercise. A medical team will also be set up at the site. For emergency cases, the injured will be air lifted by helicopter to the medical hospital located near the EOC.

3. Building Collapse Area (Site C)

Building collapse exercise will be situated in two areas. The first location is located at the Strategic Field Training Sites, Naresuan Camp. Possible scenario may include smoke evacuation. The second location is located at a building on the opposite side of Regent Cha-am Hotel, near the Petchkasem Rd. Possible scenario may include Height SAR. Building Collapse exercise will be a simulated exercise. Scenario for the building collapse has yet to be decided.

4. Maritime Rescue (Site D and Site D2)

Maritime Rescue will be divided into two scenarios. The first is located at Site D at Rama 6 Camp. The scenario is that an island has been hit by a hurricane and villagers will be rescued by sea. SAR team, dispatched from the EOC, will operate a Sea SAR rescue. A medical

team will also be set up at affected areas to perform level 1 medical treatment before sending them to the medical hospital by sea or airlift.

The second site, located at Cha-am beach will be Sea SAR, whereby the SAR team will rescue victims in the sea. Helicopters and rubber boats will bring the victims to shore for medical treatment. The exercise will be open to the public either on the 8th or 9th May to reassure the locals and tourists.

5. Evacuation Center (Site E3)

The Evacuation Center will be used as temporary shelter to assist more than 1000 local victims affected by severe dam breakage. A medical team is set up to administer level 1 treatment and villagers will be transported to the evacuation campsite near the EOC by truck. Emergency cases shall be evacuated by helicopter to the medical hospital.

6. Chemical Leakage Area (Site M)

Chemical leakage exercises shall be held in the same area as the building collapse exercise at Naresaun Camp. The scenario has yet to be decided. Possible scenario may include leakage from a chemical truck.

ARF countries and International Organizations are invited to actively participate in the FTX. Participation forms specifying detailed areas of **participation should be submitted to FTX focal point by 15 March 2013.**

Questions/Concerns Raised

Concerns raised in the FTX and site survey sessions are as follows:

- The roles of EOC/ AHA Centre and OSOCC was raised during the first day of the WG meeting. The Co-hosts explained that Thailand, as the host government, is designated at the top of the disaster response structure or EOC. The EOC will be the authority that oversees disaster situations in affected areas and coordinate international humanitarian assistance. Once magnitude of the disaster escalates, Thailand accepts offer of foreign civil and military assistance. Thailand will then call upon the utilization of the regional and UN disaster relief mechanisms. The AHA Centre (civil and military assets from ASEAN member states) and the UN OSOCC (civil assets from all other international countries) and the CMOC (military assets from all other countries) will be set up at the EOC, Rama 6 camp.
- Not all scenarios have been established, for example the chemical leakage and building collapse exercises. Scenarios should be provided to the delegation as soon as possible, in order for participating countries to prepare the appropriate equipments and assets for the exercise.
- Participating countries inquired whether they can decide which exercise area to be stationed or will it be assigned to them by co-host, for example, medical teams that are dispersed throughout the exercise sites.
- Many questions concerning steps and procedures of each exercise were raised, for example, medical team set-up or whether the exercise will be real or simulated.
- Delegates inquired whether the host will provide supplies, such as portable cooking areas, tents, water supplies, portable toilets. In this regard, these items should be supplied by participating countries. The Thai side will provide logistics information to participants regarding importation and deploy of assets to the exercise areas, as well as coordinate with customs regarding exemptions of exercise materials. Participants are requested to submit the itemized details to the FTX and Logistics Support focal points at the earliest.
- Many delegates have expressed desire to have the medical team and SAR team stay

on sight. The Thai side have no objections for teams to set up tents in some areas, subject to spacing. Participants wishing to stay on site should specify their intent to the FTX focal point at the earliest.

- Some delegates inquired about whether medicine and pharmaceutical supplies will be provided by Thailand. In this regard, import of medicines or pharmaceuticals will have to submit a request to the Ministry of Public Health.

- Many participants had questions regarding actual treatment of victims during the exercise, whether the treatment part of the exercise will be real or simulated. The Thai side explained that at this point, the Medical Council of Thailand has not yet authorized the medical credentials for international physicians. However, if many countries express desire to perform actual treatment during the exercises, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will submit the request to the Medical Council for further consideration.
