



ASEAN Regional Forum Inter-Sessional Meeting on Disaster Management

Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
25-26 February 2016



Civil-Military Coordination: Domestic Response

- The President is the lead for National response: Declares the state of emergency
- Lead Federal Agency: Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
- Lead Coordinator for US Federal Interagency Disaster Response: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- Department of Defense (DOD), via the Director of Military Support (DOMS/US Army) is a supporting agency
- State Governor/Local Authority is the lead for all Disaster response in their State/Locality



Civil-Military Coordination: Domestic Response

- ***Disaster occurs***



- If the Local Government is overwhelmed, they can request assistance from the State
- The State can declare a state of emergency without being asked by a Local Official
- State will respond with their own capacity (to include the State National Guard) and/or request assistance from the Federal Government
- The President can declare a state of emergency and the Department of Homeland Security through FEMA goes into response mode
- If required and requested, the Military gets involved providing support as requested by FEMA



Civil-Military Coordination: Domestic Response

- Base Commanders can support their local community (outside their gates) during the response phase of a disaster
- Legally, the US Military cannot get involved in domestic response unless requested
- Federal response supports Local/State response. Local Government is the lead in their area
- ❖ US Federal law changed after Hurricane Katrina in where the Mayor of New Orleans didn't request assistance and the State and the Federal government couldn't respond timely



Civil-Military Coordination: Foreign Disaster Response

- US Response is bilateral in nature
 - Lead Federal Agency: Department of State (DOS)
 - US Ambassador is the lead for US disaster response in that country
 - Lead Coordinator for US Federal Interagency Disaster Response: United States Agency for International Development/Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA)
 - Department of Defense (DOD) is a supporting US Federal Agency
 - The US Military's response is ISO requirements generated by USAID/OFDA as requests for assistance



Civil-Military Coordination: Foreign Disaster Response

Disaster occurs



- A state of emergency/calamity is declared by the Affected Nation and sends out a request for assistance and/or notification that they will accept assistance
- The US Embassy in that country sends a request for assistance to the Department of State
- USAID/OFDA conducts a needs assessment for US support
- USAID/OFDA sends support requirements to the Department of State (can be in the form of funding or direct support)
- If required due to its “unique capabilities”, the Department of State requests assistance from the Department of Defense



Civil-Military Coordination: Foreign Disaster Response

- If required, a Geographic Commander is tasked by the Secretary of Defense to support the relief operations (in the Indo/Asia/Pacific area the supporting geographic commander is usually, US Pacific Command)
- US Military supports the country's US Ambassador (as lead for US response) and responds to requests for assistance from USAID/OFDA (as lead for US coordination)
- US Military can support Military to Military requests for assistance during the response phase of an operation (it can come through the Multinational Military Coordination Center/MNCC)
- A Military Commander can support a foreign government to save lives and reduce suffering without formal tasking for up to 72 hours if the forces are in the vicinity of the disaster
- ❖ Other Civil-Military Coordination is done at the country's disaster response center, the MNCC , UNOCHA's OSOCC & HUMOCC and information sharing websites (ReliefWeb)

Questions

