REGIONAL CONSULTATIVE GROUP | SECOND SESSION

HUMANITARIAN CIVIL-MILITARY COORDINATION
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

SUMMARY REPORT
BACKGROUND
A multi-stakeholder Regional Consultative Group (RCG) on Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination for Asia and the Pacific was formed in 2014 to act as a regional forum that brings together the humanitarian, civilian and military actors involved in disaster response preparedness planning and disaster response in the region. As outlined in the RCG Terms of Reference, the RCG was formed to: a) discuss response preparedness planning, with a focus on coordination of operational planning between civilian and military actors; b) facilitate exchange of information and innovative ideas to enable well-coordinated and needs-based effective disaster response to a broad range of humanitarian emergency operations; c) strengthen linkages with other relevant platforms with an emphasis on the relationship with Regional Organizations and the Global Consultative Group on Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination.

The First Session of the Regional Consultative Group (RCG) on Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination for Asia and the Pacific took place on 3-4 December 2015 at the United Nations Building, Bangkok, Thailand. The event resulted in a number of outcomes, including:

• **Response preparedness planning**: the key focus of the RCG First Session was for members to develop country level work plans aimed at enhancing the coordination of operational planning between civilian and military actors in priority countries (Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal, Myanmar and the Philippines);

• **Predictability of civil-military coordination in response**: RCG members defined approaches that can enhance the predictability of civil-military coordination mechanisms by examining lessons learned from recent responses and the extent these lessons were applied in subsequent operations;

• **Use, allocation and tracking of foreign military assets (FMA)**: RCG members agreed on the need to develop predetermined agreements with specific government/militaries on FMA that can be immediately mobilized. They also explored what interoperable system could track the use and allocation of military assistance. Similarly, they agreed that exit strategies in the use of FMA need to be streamlined and communicated as soon as possible into the operation.

• **UN-CMCoord Global Consultative Group**: an important focus of the RCG First Session was placed on strengthening the link between the RCG and the UN-CMCoord Global Consultative Group, so as to allow information sharing and cross-fertilization between the two platforms.

RCG SECOND SESSION OBJECTIVES
The Second Session of the Regional Consultative Group (RCG) took place on 11-12 October 2016 at the United Nations Building, Rajadamnern Avenue, Bangkok, Thailand. The event continued to build on the outcomes of the RCG First Session and addressed additional key issues that are central to advancing the civil-military coordination agenda in Asia and the Pacific:

• **Update on the work plans** that were agreed during the RCG First Session to strengthen the coordination of operational planning between civilian and military actors in each of the RCG priority countries (Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal, Myanmar and the Philippines);
• **Overview of the outcomes** of the Annual Meeting of the UNCMCoord Global Consultative Group (Geneva, February 2016) as well as the results of the UN-CMCoord side event at the World Humanitarian Summit (Istanbul, May 2016);

• **Outline of new UN-CMCoord projects** such as the development of Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination Standards and their relevance for the Asia-Pacific region;

• **Overview of regional hazards** and trends that can affect disaster response operations and pose a threat to disaster responders and outline of security management and what would be the essential elements of security information that would be needed for the humanitarian response community.

• **Establishment of the RCG working group for the Pacific**;

• **Follow-up to the RCG First Session recommendation** to establish an RCG Logistics Working Group (LWG). The LWG purpose is to enhance the predictability and appropriate use of foreign military logistics assets to further augment known humanitarian logistical capabilities.

• **Follow-up to the RCG First Session recommendation** to develop a dedicated publication that would outline the civil-military coordination mechanisms and platforms in each of the five priority countries.

The Second Session of the RCG gathered a total of 96 participants from more than 25 countries including humanitarian personnel, disaster management officials and military actors from Member States and regional organizations throughout the Asia-Pacific region.

"The humanitarian system must ensure there is an established platform which fosters dialogue, interaction, information exchange, and joint planning at all levels. The RCG on Civil-Military Coordination provides the opportunity to advance multi-agency and multi-sector response planning."

*Undersecretary Ricardo B. Jalad, Executive Director NDRRMC and Administrator OCD, Government of the Philippines*

The RCG Second Session was opened by Brigadier General Restituto F. Padilla, Assistant Deputy Chief of Staff for Civil-Military Operations and Spokesperson for the Armed Forces of the Philippines, on behalf of Under-Secretary Ricardo B. Jalad, Executive Director NDRRMC and Administrator OCD. In his remarks, General Padilla stated the commitment of the Philippines, as current RCG Chair, to the regional platform, highlighting its relevance for disaster preparedness and response, as well as humanitarian civil-military coordination.

Mr. Stephen O’Brien, the Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator took part in the RCG opening session. He acknowledged the progress that has been made in Asia and the Pacific to bring together humanitarian, civilian and military actors to prepare for and respond to disasters in an organised, effective and mutually supportive manner. He also commended the best practices in humanitarian civil-military coordination undertaken in the region, where a number of stakeholders
(regional organisations, militaries, private sector and civil society) complement nationally-led preparedness and response efforts. Mr. O’Brien highlighted how the RCG can contribute to making humanitarian action more fit for purpose by creating an effective and inclusive community of humanitarians and their partners that can better respond to existing and future challenges.

“Despite immense challenges, immense progress is being made to bring together humanitarian, civilian and military actors in Asia, to prepare for and respond to disasters in the most effective way possible.”

Stephen O’Brien
Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator

RCG - WEDNESDAY 11 OCTOBER

As part of the introductory sessions of the RCG, a comprehensive background and evolution of the RCG was given, starting with the aftermath of the 2004 Indonesian Tsunami to the development of the Asia-Pacific Regional Guidelines for the Use of Foreign Military Assets in Natural Disaster Response Operations (“APC MADRO Guidelines”). The key RCG objectives were also highlighted:

- **Provide a regional forum** that brings together the humanitarian, civilian and military actors involved in disaster response preparedness planning and disaster response;
- **Engage in response preparedness planning** among participant countries;
- **Offer a platform to exchange information**, lessons learned, and best practices;
- **Identify and address emerging policy issues** and gaps in the field of response preparedness and civil-military coordination Emerging policy issues and gaps;
- **Establish linkages** between the work of the RCG and other relevant forums, as and when appropriate, with an emphasis on the relationship with Regional Organizations and the Global Consultative Group on Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination.

PANEL DISCUSSION: Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination Standards (Annex A)

With its beginnings anchored in the regional and thematic consultations undertaken in preparation for the World Humanitarian Summit, the proposed Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination Standards represent an opportunity to operationalize and bring currency to internationally agreed guidelines and guidance on civil-military interaction and the use of foreign and host nation military assets in humanitarian assistance operations. Commonly agreed standards will therefore seek to enhance the predictability, effectiveness, efficiency and coherence of employing military assets, and maintain a clear distinction between the roles and responsibilities of both humanitarian and military actors. Similarly, the proposed Standards will aim to serve as a valuable addition to existing emergency response frameworks.
The development process is being facilitated by the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), and is supported by an established Drafting Committee and Advisory Group comprising subject matter experts to assist in the development and provide oversight and guidance. Members of the Regional Consultative Group (RCG) on Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination for Asia and the Pacific have joined both the Drafting Committee and the Advisory Group. During the panel discussions, RCG members highlighted a number of key issues related to the development of the Standards:

1. **Framework for the Standards**: RCG members expressed appreciation for the creation of the framework for the standards, with the identification of five broad categories that will be used for the development of the standards: preparedness, deployment, employment, transition, monitoring and evaluation. There was broad agreement that the identified framework will account for the various levels of engagement commonly found in humanitarian civil-military coordination within both natural disaster and complex emergency settings;

2. **Principled Approach**: at present, the quality and effectiveness benchmark for organizations and individuals involved in humanitarian response is the Core Humanitarian Standard on Quality and Accountability (CHS). The nine commitments of the CHS describe the essential elements of principled, accountable and high-quality humanitarian action. RCG members welcomed the fact that the Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination Standards will be designed to complement the CHS;

3. **Consultation**: RCG members highlighted that the development of the Standards needs to reflect as much as possible the perspective of different stakeholders. Regional organisations, such as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) must play a central role in the process. Cross-cutting aspects such as protection and gender should also inform the development of the standards;

4. **Communication/Advocacy**: RCG members stated that the implementation of an effective dissemination strategy will be as important as the standards development and advocated for this strategy to include a training component. Engagement with Peacekeeping Training Centres and Command and Staff Colleges can influence the degree to which future military forces understand and view humanitarian action and can lead to better military support in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster relief (HA/DR). For this reason, RCG members advocated for the Standards to be included as part of the military curricula and military planning process. They also recommended that the piloting of the Standards should be over an extended period of time;

5. **Competition**: RCG members highlighted the risk of having a proliferation of guidance and criteria. In order for the Standards to remain relevant, they should be considered as a living document, flexible enough to continue to reflect real-world operational challenges.
Regional Consultative Group on UN-CMCoord for Asia and the Pacific: 2016 Work Plans

During this session, RCG members focused on the work plans developed for the RCG priority countries (Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal, Myanmar, Philippines), presenting in plenary progress made against the 2016 work plan.

BANGLADESH - 2016 WORK PLAN

**Coordination mechanisms:** In 2016, the Government of Bangladesh and the Bangladesh Armed Forces enhanced their understanding of how military to military, as well as civil-military coordination mechanisms could be tailored and applied to the specific context of Bangladesh. The Disaster Response Exercise and Exchange (DREE) held in Bangladesh in October 2016 (with the participation of India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Myanmar, UK and USA) represented a key event to test progress made in this area.

**Use, allocation and tracking of Foreign Military Assets (FMA):** the Government of Bangladesh established a national website to collect and share disaster management data (www.afd.gov.bd/DisasterManagement). The platform will act as information hub, coordination tool, knowledge and inventory resources management. **Coordination of Logistic Planning:** the Government of Bangladesh focused on the possibility of using river routes to transport and deliver relief items during large-scale disaster response operations in Bangladesh.

INDONESIA - 2016 WORK PLAN

**Coordination mechanisms:** BNPB has started the development of the National Disaster Response Framework (NDRF), to be completed by end of 2017. The Technical Working Group (TWG) on Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination (created in 2015) made progress in key areas such as: review of the Inter-ministerial Rapid Response Unit for Disaster Management; renewal of the MOU between BNPB and TNI-Ministry of Defence; feedback provided to Chapter 6 of the ASEAN SASOP on the Facilitation and Utilisation of Military Assets and Capacities in ASEAN. **Use, allocation and tracking of Foreign Military Assets (FMA):** during 2016, agreement was reached that Foreign Military Assets in Indonesia will be coordinated through the MNCC (Multi-National Coordination Centre), as part of MAC (Multi-Agency Coordination Center) and that detailed SOPs need to be developed. **Coordination of Logistic Planning:** BNPB and the national logistics cluster (WFP-supported) worked to forge stronger partnerships with operational partners, including military and the private sectors. **Information Sharing Platforms:** in-country partners worked to prepare a tabletop exercise will take place in November 2016 in Ambon. The event will have the following objectives: to validate information sharing mechanisms through national focal points; to validate procedures to use Foreign Military Assets in disaster response; to validate EAS (East Asia Summit) Toolkit as a guiding reference in managing humanitarian assistance from regional and international organizations.

MYANMAR - 2016 WORK PLAN

In 2016 the Government of Myanmar focused on increasing their knowledge and understanding of key humanitarian civil-military coordination concepts and principles with dedicated workshops and training sessions. To achieve this objective a number of **capacity building initiatives** took place, including a Civil-Military Coordination /Disaster Management Workshop on 9-10 August 2016 in Nay Pyi Taw with the participation of civilian and military representatives. Key discussion points of this event included: a) how to improve dialogue and interaction between civilian and military actors in disaster response; b) an outline of emergency tools and services; c) a review of existing information management procedures in disaster response. The workshop recommendations will inform disaster management activities as well as humanitarian civil-military coordination in Myanmar.
NEPAL – 2016 WORK PLAN

Coordination mechanisms: Two key civil-military coordination exercises took place in Nepal in 2016: MPAT Tempest Express 28 and the Disaster Response Exercise and Exchange (DREE). These events were used to test the coordination architecture in Nepal, including linkages between the Multinational Military Coordination Center (MNMCC), the National Emergency Operation Centre (NEOC) and humanitarian coordination structures. Use, allocation and tracking of Foreign Military Assets (FMA): It was clarified that FMA coordination at national level takes place in the MNMCC and is facilitated through liaison with the established civil-military coordination platform. During 2016, the Government of Nepal developed SOPs and guidelines for the activation and operation of the MNMCC. Information sharing platforms: The Government of Nepal/MoHA upgraded the national disaster management portal with information/update on civil-military coordination.

PHILIPPINES – 2016 WORK PLAN

Coordination mechanisms: During 2016, the Government of the Philippines worked on the development of guidelines that can provide the institutional framework and mechanism for the coordination of incoming/outgoing international humanitarian assistance. Use, allocation and tracking of Foreign Military Assets (FMA): Military-to-Military Coordination (led by the Armed Forces of the Philippines - AFP) focused on the development of temporary Status of Forces Agreements (SOFAs) during emergencies to stipulate the terms of reference of assisting countries’ foreign military forces. Guidelines on the activation and conduct of operations of the Multinational Coordination Centre (MNCC) and the Civil-Military Coordination Center (CMCC) were also developed. Civil-Military Coordination (led by the Office of Civil Defence) focused on capacity building with UN-CMCoord training for AFP officers at the General Headquarters and Field Command level.

PANEL DISCUSSION: Predictable Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination Platforms in Emergencies

One of the recommendations formulated during the RCG First Session was to develop a publication that would outline what operational civil-military platforms are activated during disaster response operations in the RCG five priority countries. During 2016, the project was developed as a joint initiative between the Australian Civil-Military Centre (ACMC), the Humanitarian Advisory Group (HAG) and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA), Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP). The initial steps for the development of the publication included a literature review of key global and regional UN-CMCoord policy as well as interviews held with key stakeholders, both military and civilian. RCG members were informed that, following the RCG Second Session, the draft publication would be posted online (https://www.humanitarianresponse.info/en/operations/asia/civil-military-coordination-working-group) to receive RCG comments and feedback (rcgpolicy@gmail.com). Following this consultative process, the next step will be the online launch of the publication, tentatively scheduled by the end of 2016. RCG members agreed that the publication should be updated regularly, possibly every quarter and following consultations during the annual RCG meeting.
UN-CMCoord Regional Updates

The objectives of this session were the following: a) to provide RCG members with an update on humanitarian civil-military coordination in ASEAN; b) to discuss the unique civil-military coordination environment in the Pacific; c) to share regional best practices in UN-CMCoord from the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC). The representative from the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on disaster management (AHA Centre) provided the following key updates related to humanitarian civil-military coordination in ASEAN:

1. ASEAN SASOP Chapter 6 on the Facilitation and Utilisation of Military Assets and Capacities: the document was accepted by the ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM). It will now be tested during the East Asia Summit (EAS) Toolkit TTX in Ambon (Indonesia, 15-17 November 2016) as well as the ASEAN Regional Exercise (ARDEX) (Brunei Darussalam, 28 November – 2 December 2016).

2. One ASEAN, One Response: Adopted by ASEAN leadership on 6 September 2016, the One ASEAN One Response Declaration confirmed the centrality of the ASEAN SASOP in organizing / coordinating ASEAN response, both civilian and military.

3. ASEAN Military Ready Group (AMRG): The AMRG will complement existing arrangements under the ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) and will work in coordination with the AHA Centre. The AMRG terms of reference were adopted during the 10th ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM) in Vientiane, Laos in 2016.

The Session on the Pacific highlighted that the configuration of this region, characterized by small islands spread over vast stretches of water, makes the deployment of military and civil defense assets (MCDA) one of the most viable options for supporting the timely delivery of humanitarian assistance during emergencies. A number of international agreements and partnerships, including the FRANZ arrangement between France, Australia and New Zealand, have been enacted in recent years to provide the additional support that Pacific countries might need for large-scale disaster response efforts. Lessons learned from disaster response operations over the past four years (TC Evan (2012), TC Pam (2015) and TC Winston (2016)) highlighted the role that the military and police would play in any large-scale disaster response in the region, and confirmed that Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination (UN-CMCoord) is essential to facilitate dialogue and interaction between civilian and military actors and ensure the most appropriate and effective use of foreign military assets in support of humanitarian operations in the Pacific.

During the session, RCG members endorsed the proposal to create a regional consultative group for the Pacific, closely linked to the RCG. The following observations were raised to support this decision: a) only a few countries in the region, including Fiji and Tuvalu, have military forces, with the majority of Pacific countries relying on police and civil defence assets. It is therefore critical to understand this unique operating environment and how governments can improve military/police coordination; b) the Pacific is characterized by a high number of island countries with a small population (only three countries have more than 1m people -Australia, NZ, and PNG) and large maritime borders. In spite of this, most island countries do not have sufficient maritime assets to deploy in disasters. This highlights the need to discuss the use of Foreign Military Assets in the unique context of the Pacific; c) disaster management frameworks are often not codified in one document but often in several laws and policies; d) logistic and administrative challenges make it difficult for representatives from Pacific Islands and Territories to...
attend RCG sessions held in Asia. Further discussions on the RCG Pacific will take place during the Pacific Humanitarian Team meeting (Fiji, 19-21 October) and the forthcoming UN-CMCoord Course (Fiji, 20-25 November).

The Red Cross Red Crescent Movement: the representative from the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC) highlighted the key role of the RCRC movement in civil-military relations. A number of resolutions (RCRC Policies, Guidelines, Handbooks) are in place that outline the Movement position in relation with the military forces. Common guiding principles for these polices include: Humanitarian Access, Humanitarian Space and Humanitarian Sustainability of Actions. In Asia and the Pacific, both IFRC and ICRC have dedicated working groups and standard training packages on civil-military relations. One of the key events that will further contribute to shape and strengthen the role of the RCRC Movement in civil-military relations is the RCRC Forum on Civil-Military Relations that is tentatively scheduled for December 2016.
RCG – THURSDAY 12 OCTOBER

Rapid Response in Asia and the Pacific (Annex B)
During the second day of the RCG, participants addressed evolving trends in disaster response in Asia and the Pacific. Discussions highlighted that humanitarian needs in the aftermath of sudden onset-disasters are relatively predictable, and that those key immediate needs can be contextualized based on existing secondary data and socio-cultural analysis. Participants agreed that a systematic and comprehensive preparedness approach should link sequential stages of a response, such as: 1. Disaster Impact Model; 2. Needs Analysis; 3. Response Capacity Analysis; 4. Planning and Advocacy. These four stages were articulated as an operational interpretation of the humanitarian programme cycle for the region and participants agreed that they would be complemented by an integrated monitoring and testing process.

It was highlighted that the Regional Consultative Group (RCG) on Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination for Asia and the Pacific can contribute to each of the outlined stages by: a) identifying what unique assets/capabilities could be mobilized by operational partners (militaries, police and private sector) to ensure the rapid delivery against identified key needs; b) facilitating the implementation of coordinated operational planning between civilian and military actors and reaching agreement on how best to address identified gaps in response; c) contributing to the development of a humanitarian coordination architecture that is flexible, tailored to the specific context of each country and inclusive of the role of operational partners (militaries, police and private sector). Following this initial briefing, RCG members continued the discussions in working groups (Bangladesh, Indonesia, Nepal, Myanmar and the Philippines). At the end of the session, a government representative presented in plenary a detailed 2017 work plan for each of the priority countries.

BANGLADESH - 2017 WORK PLAN

Working group participants discussed preparedness efforts for a large-scale earthquake in Bangladesh. **Disaster Impact Model**: Armed Forces Division (AFD) will contact the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology for the development of a study to confirm planning assumptions/scenario based on a large-scale earthquake in Bangladesh. **Response Modalities**: in 2017, the Government of Bangladesh will take part in the RCG Logistic Working Group (RCG LWG). The main objectives are: a) to continue to develop a logistic operational plan that in the immediate aftermath of a large-scale disaster in Bangladesh would allow for the immediate delivery of aid using a combination of air lift transportation and water routes; b) to finalise the Logistic Capacity Assessment for Bangladesh; c) to ensure linkages and coordination of logistic trainings in Bangladesh. **Coordination Architecture**: in 2017, the Government, with the support of the humanitarian partners, will finalise the revision of the Coordination Architecture in Bangladesh. An important focus will be placed on the operationalization of some key military to military and humanitarian civil-military coordination mechanisms.
**INDONESIA - 2017 WORK PLAN**

As a result of the working group discussions, the following activities were agreed for the 2017 work plan: a) ensure engagement of regional/international partners in the development of Indonesia’s National Disaster Response Framework (NDRF); b) BNPB, the Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) and other stakeholders will continue to engage in the elaboration of one unified, Government-led coordination structure – including through the development of of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the Indonesian Government’s Multi-Agency Coordination Centre (MAC) and further adaptation of the Incident Command System; c) Indonesia, ASEAN and resident humanitarian agencies will pilot the Rapid Response Approach to Disasters in Asia-Pacific (RAPID) under the leadership of BNPB (initial workshop to take place during the 1st quarter 2017); d) Indonesia will work closely with ASEAN on the operationalisation of One ASEAN One Response, including through engagement in relevant simulation exercises; e) support will be provided by OCHA and other partners to the BNPB-led Technical Working Group on Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination, which will focus, inter alia, on continued engagement on logistics planning; f) BNPB and OCHA will continue to engage TNI and MOD in the above activities.

**MYANMAR - 2017 WORK PLAN**

The working group continued to build on the recommendations formulated as part of the 2016 work plan in the following areas: Coordination, Information Management, Capacity Building. **Coordination:** Decision-makers from both the civilian and the military side should coordinate in emergency situations with the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and the activation of a dedicated operation/management centre. Focal points from both the NDMO and the Military should be appointed to be part of these mechanisms. A key component of the 2017 work plan will also focus on the implementation of AADMER Work Programme in collaboration with ASEAN countries. **Information Management:** Information sharing should take place in a timely manner and at different levels. To this end, during 2017, efforts will be made to improve information sharing mechanisms at national and field level. **Capacity building:** Civil-military coordination training will continue to take place at national and local level. Military officials who have received UN-CMCoord training should be appointed to attend regional and national civil-military coordination workshop/discussions. Civil-military stakeholders from Myanmar should take part in exercises at regional and national level.
NEPAL – 2017 WORK PLAN

The working group discussions focused on earthquake preparedness and on the operationalisation of the National Disaster Response Framework (NDRF). **Capacity Assessment/Disaster Impact Model:** in 2017, Nepal will finalise the mapping of domestic military assets and capability. This mapping will inform the development of Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the deployment of foreign military assets to be required for large-scale disaster response in the country. Scientists, Durham University, Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), OCHA will refine and tailor the Disaster Impact Model and Key Immediate Needs (KIN) to the Nepal context. This scenario and KIN will continue to inform the development of civil-military exercises as well as the joint contingency plan between Government/military and international partners. **Response modalities:** logistics challenges of disaster response operations will continue to be addressed, including flying in the hills/mountains and restricted areas. Training on camp management, with the participation of government and military actors, will be organized by IOM in 2017. **Coordination Architecture:** existing procedures for the Multinational Military Coordination Center (MNMC) will be updated and the proposed structure reflected in the revised NDRF; national guidelines on international assistance will be developed to reinforce linkages between civilian and military, tailor lessons learned on the “one-stop-shop” from the Philippines to strengthen NEOC decision-making process and establish priority channel for key humanitarian actors bringing in life-saving relief/equipment.

PHILIPPINES - 2017 WORK PLAN

Working group discussions focused primarily on earthquake preparedness and resulted in the following key outcomes. **Capacity Assessment:** pre-disaster risk assessments will be institutionalized with the development of dedicated SOPs; civil-military exercises will be conducted to test the procedures developed; gaps in assets/responders/capabilities from civilian and military actors should be identified and addressed; local authorities and communities will be consulted for the identification of key immediate needs, as well as affected areas to be prioritized in the context of the Philippines. **Response Modalities:** a checklist /manual for international forces and humanitarian partners should be prepared to facilitate their understanding of how to provide effective and targeted support during large-scale disaster response operations. **Coordination Architecture:** during 2017, UN-CMCoord trainings for Government officials and AFP will continue with a view to institutionalizing key principles and practices. Furthermore, advocacy will continue to further strengthen the cluster system with well-defined linkages between the Government clusters and the IASC clusters/sectors; work on the “one-stop shop” platform will continue, including the development of a website where information can be openly shared and made available for country, regional and international actors who may provide support during large scale disaster response operations. During 2017, the AFP will further improve and clarify military to military procedures (MNCC); the office of Civil Defence will focus on humanitarian civil-
military coordination mechanisms that can facilitate the interface between the Government of Philippines, UN agencies, (I)NGOs, national and foreign militaries.

Security of Disaster Relief Operations: a Regional Approach
The objectives of the session were: a) to outline regional hazards and trends that can affect disaster response operations and pose a threat to disaster responders and: b) to provide an overview of security management and what would be the essential elements of security information that would be needed for the humanitarian response community.

In addition to natural disasters, in Asia and the Pacific there are a number of security threats (traditional and non-traditional) that have the potential to disrupt attempts to respond to these disasters effectively. Understanding key drivers of security can help set the scene identifying and mitigating potential security issues during response operations. Security affects humanitarian response as they put aid workers at risk. During the session it was highlighted that violence is not only isolated to complex emergencies or non-permissive environment, it should always be a planning factor also during disaster response operations. Information sharing between civilian and military actors is an essential tool to ensure security for disaster response operations. Two key recommendations were formulated during the session: a) Develop unclassified threat information that can be shared with humanitarian community; b) Include aid worker safety and security in exercise scenarios.

RCG Logistics Working Group
Given the complexity and the relevance of logistic in the coordination of operational planning between civilian and military actors, an RCG Logistics Working Group (RCG-LWG) was established within the overall RCG framework, to facilitate inter-governmental and inter-agency discussions on critical logistic issues. The RCG-LWG focus will be on: a) assessing logistics needs and identifying gaps in capacity at regional and national level; b) discussing and making recommendations on the use of Foreign Military Assets (FMA) to augment humanitarian logistic capabilities and ensure that coordinated logistic response operations take place. Possible areas of discussion and intervention will include (but are not limited to):

1. Mapping of the unique Foreign Military Assets (FMA) that could be mobilized to optimize logistic operations and compare the information with what is usually required during an emergency. The objective is to reduce the gap between the onset of disasters and the point at which response reaches scale, while not bringing unnecessary assets. A review of the ‘Gap Fit’ analysis from the Global Consultative Group will also be discussed;
2. Dissemination of information on existing logistics tools and services (role of Logistics Cluster, cargo tracking, logistic capacity assessment, etc.) and awareness raising of their implementation during disaster response operations in the region;
3. Revision of existing regional civil-military coordination guidance to reflect current operational modalities for the effective and efficient use of FMA to fill identified gaps in logistics capacity;
4. Training of key stakeholders, including military planners, on humanitarian civil-military coordination and logistics, also through the use of innovative training platforms.

It was agreed that the RCG-LWG will meet quarterly in 2017 either physically or using virtual platforms. Progress in the identified areas of interventions will be presented during the Third Session of the RCG (last quarter of 2017). The WFP Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific will act as the RCG-LWG Chair.
OCHA ROAP will act as secretariat to the RCG-LWG regularly reporting progress to the RCG Chair. RCG-LWG members will consist primarily of practitioners with experience in disaster response operations, with an emphasis on logisticians.

**RCG Regional Exercise Synchronization (Annex C)**

The session objective was to promote greater awareness of civil-military exercises in the region and to ensure follow-up to the recommendation formulated during the RCG First Session to develop one exercise that would test the full spectrum of the coordination architecture, including military to military and civil-military coordination. In the lead up to the RCG Second Session, information was collected from key stakeholders in relation to key civil-military coordination events/activities that would take place during 2017. Having a complete and up to date calendar that reflects civil-military activity is instrumental to synchronizing and complimenting the efforts of all countries in order to promote regional cooperation and coordination. During the RCG Second Session, participants were asked to share additional information and updates that informed the development of a dedicated 2017 event calendar (Annex I). In addition, participants addressed the recommendation formulated during the RCG First Session of having one comprehensive exercise that would test the full spectrum of the coordination architecture. In this regard, the proposal was tabled of possible using one of the forthcoming INSARAG regional exercise events to achieve this objective.

**RCG - THE WAY FORWARD**

The Second Session of the RCG was dedicated to the hand-over of the RCG chair from the Government of the Philippines (2016) to the Government of Singapore (RCG Chair for 2017). During his concluding remarks, Under-Secretary Ricardo B. Jalad, Executive Director NDRRMC and Administrator OCD, highlighted that the RCG Chair can provide another opportunity for the Government of Singapore to bring knowledge, capacity and expertise to bear on the enormous challenges at hand in responding to large-scale disasters in our region, as well as bring valued regional perspectives and ownership to global discussions on humanitarian civil-military coordination. The following activities were agreed as part of 2017 RCG Work Plan:

- Monitor the 2017 work plans for each of the RCG focus countries; updates to be shared with RCG members (quarterly);
- Strengthen the RCG Community of Practice (RCG Website, Newsletter, Virtual meetings);
- Support the RCG-Logistic Working Group led by WFP;
- Consolidate best practices from 2017 exercises to inform the possible organisation of one exercise to test the full spectrum of the coordination architecture;
- Ensure updates to the RCG publication (quarterly);
- Support the newly created RCG working group for the Pacific.
- Ensure that emerging clarity on *One ASEAN One Response* is communicated to RCG Stakeholders;
- Address any emerging harmonisation requirements between SASOP Chapter 6 and APC-MADRO / Other CMCoord Guidance (recommendations formulated by the Indonesia Working Group);
- Share best practices on Disaster Response Operations; Share information on military capabilities that could be made available by neighboring countries (India, Nepal, Myanmar) to support responses within South Asia (recommendation formulated by the Bangladesh working group).

The Third Session of the RCG on Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination for Asia and the Pacific is scheduled to take place in Q4 of 2017 in Singapore.
HUMANITARIAN CIVIL-MILITARY COORDINATION STANDARDS

- Consultation & Decision Making
- Comparative Advantage & Complementarity
- Connectivity & Coordination
- Information Sharing & Placing Needs at the Centre
- Appropriate Use & Distinction
- Exit Strategy Planning
- Redeployment & Handover
- Preparedness
- Capacity & Capability Development
- Coordinated Planning & Predictability
- Guidance, Policy & Doctrine
- Monitoring & Evaluation
- Learning & Innovation
- Capacity & Capability Development
- Coordinated Planning & Predictability
- Guidance, Policy & Doctrine
### CALENDAR 2017

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>ADMM+ EWG on HADR (USA and Malaysia as co-chairs) 2 Working Groups and one Exercise</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>16th ARF Inter-Sessional Meeting on Disaster Relief</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>SHARED Course Peacekeeping Training Centres ToT</td>
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<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>(April/May) ASEAN Committee on Disaster Management (ACDM) Open Session and Partnership Conference</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid 2017</td>
<td>ARF Workshop on National Earthquake Disaster Response and USAR Capacity Building</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Month</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>January</td>
<td>23-25 January 2017 Ex Coordinated Response (Ex COORES) 2017 - Singapore</td>
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<tr>
<td>February</td>
<td>February 2017 COBRA GOLD Thailand, Bilateral US-Thai + 10 HADR exercise</td>
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<tr>
<td>March</td>
<td>27-31 March ASEAN CMCoord Thailand, Hosted by Thailand MOD</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>TBC First Meeting of the RCG Logistic Working Group RCG-LWG</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>19-24 March 2017 UN-CMCoord Course for the Asia Region</td>
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<td></td>
<td>March Civil-Military Interaction Workshop (CMIW) - Sydney</td>
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<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>20-28 April 2017 TEMPEST EXPRESS 30 - Indonesia</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>May 2017 DREE Mongolia - Mongolia, USARPAC</td>
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<td></td>
<td>May/June UNDAC consolidation course - Republic of Korea, TBC</td>
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<td>TBC ARF DIREX</td>
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<td></td>
<td>TBC BALIKATAN - Philippines</td>
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<tr>
<td>June</td>
<td>Mid 2017 Disaster Relief Exercise &amp; Exchange - Fiji, Bilateral US Army Pacific-Fiji</td>
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<td></td>
<td>TBC Second Meeting of the RCG Logistic Working Group RCG-LWG</td>
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<tr>
<td>July</td>
<td>13-21 July 2017 TEMPEST EXPRESS 31 - Thailand</td>
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<tr>
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<td>12-14 July Workshop on Disaster Response, Regional Architecture - DKI APCSS - Location TBD</td>
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<tr>
<td>August</td>
<td>End of August RBAF Command and Staff College Course Malaysia Peacekeeping Center OCHA training</td>
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<tr>
<td>September</td>
<td>TBC Third Meeting of the RCG Logistic Working Group - RCG-LWG</td>
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<td>September INSARAG A-P Regional Meeting - Malaysia</td>
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<tr>
<td>October</td>
<td>October INSARAG Team Leaders Meeting - Global</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>UN-CMCoord Global Skills Workshop - Geneva, Switzerland</td>
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<td>(TBC) October PHIBLEX - Philippines</td>
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<tr>
<td>November</td>
<td>3-8 December 2017 UN-CMCoord course for the Pacific Region - Fiji</td>
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<td>ASEAN-UN Summit and ASEAN Summits</td>
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<td>December</td>
<td>7-15 December 2017 TEMPEST EXPRESS 32 - Cambodia</td>
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