

JOINT HUMANITARIAN OPERATIONS COURSE

JHOC REPORT NOVEMBER 2009

Hosted by The Center for Stabilization and Reconstructions Studies (CSRS) at the Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) in partnership with the US Agency for International Development (USAID).



About This Event: Summary

By Graseilah Coolidge

From November 17th to 22nd, 2009, the Center for Stabilization and Reconstruction Studies (CSRS) held two interactive workshops to explore the topic of humanitarian operations between the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and armed forces during international disasters situations. The workshops were facilitated by Mr. William Laspina and Mr. Thomas Frey, both relief professionals with extensive multifaceted experience.

USAID and the US military routinely respond to overseas disasters and participate in relief efforts alongside each other. This

course, designed and conducted by the Office of US Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) of USAID, provided a forum for US military personnel to discuss relationships between USAID, its partners and the US military, enhancing their ability to work collaboratively during humanitarian assistance and disaster response operations. This course was designed for US military participants.

By the end of the course, participants became more familiar with USAID, its structure, mandate and international operations. They also identified potential areas for

coordination and cooperation between USAID and the US military.

Participants developed deeper knowledge of USAID offices and the personnel that work with the US military during humanitarian assistance and disaster response operations. They were also able to identify other governmental, international and non-governmental organizations that have a role in these operations and understand their responsibilities as they relate to USAID and the US military.

ABOUT THE PARTICIPANTS

The course was open to US military personnel potentially involved in conducting humanitarian assistance and disaster relief in conjunction with USAID.

Participants included officers and NCOs who work in operations, logistics, communications, medical, planning, and civil affairs. Each of the two back-to-back classes (September 21-22, September 23-24) consisted of approximately 30 members of the US military.



The group included participants from NPS' Center for Civil-Military Relations, the Uniformed Services University, US Army 1st Aviation Brigade, US Marine Corps 3rd Civil Affairs Group, US Air Force Medical Operations Agency, US Navy's Pacific Fleet - COMPACFLT, among others.

Course Overview

Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, CA

DAY ONE

Morning

Welcome, Admin Announcements, and Introductions
Overview of US Foreign Aid
Overview of the Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance
Other USAID and State Department Offices
OFDA Video
Discussion of Donations

Afternoon

Gujarat, India Earthquake Case Study - *Class Activity*
Regional Case Studies of OFDA Disasters – *Small Work Groups*
End of Day Review

DAY TWO

Morning

Coordination with the Humanitarian System
DOD and USAID Coordination
Tools and Resources
The Field Operations Guide “FOG”

Afternoon

Final Case Study – 2005 Earthquake in Pakistan – *Small Work Groups*
Dialogue & Conclusions



WILLIAM LASPINA

Mr. Laspina was born in Osaka, Japan, and raised in Germany and California. William served in the US Army from 1968 to 1972, had two tours in the Republic of Vietnam, serving as a medic, with the 4th Infantry, 2/11th Cavalry and the Military Assistance Command in Vietnam.

William has 25 years of experience in logistical and warehouse management, including ten years of experience in disaster and relief operations working with the Department of Defense, USAID, and US Embassy missions worldwide. Responsibilities have included procurement, safety and security, transportation and storage of commodities for humanitarian aid relief missions.

William also has experience with the US military during international humanitarian assistance operations and regularly instructs the Joint Humanitarian Operations Course. Recent work on disasters includes the Pakistan Earthquake Reconstruction Team as a Safety/Security Officer and Helicopter Operations Manager, Darfur, Sudan and Colombo, Sri Lanka as a Safety/Security Officer and Logistics Officer and Senegal, as an Emergency Locust Officer, Logistics Officer and Administration Officer.

THOMAS FREY

Mr. Frey has more than 30 years of experience in all functions and phases of disaster management activities, both domestically and internationally. He has had extensive experience working with governmental agencies, international organizations, and the US military in educational and operational settings. He was a key developer of the management system used by the US Government to respond to international disasters.

Mr. Frey served as a key member of the team that developed the US Agency for International Development Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance's (OFDA) operational capability for response to international disasters, the Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART). He wrote the OFDA's Field Operations Guide for Disaster Assessment and Response the "FOG," which is now the standard guide for OFDA disaster responders worldwide and is used by numerous governmental and nongovernmental agencies, international organizations, as well as the US military. Currently more than 50,000 copies have been issued.

He served as humanitarian advisor for OFDA to AFRICOM, EUCOM, PACOM, CENTCOM and NORTHCOM, and represented OFDA as a humanitarian advisor to Joint Task Force Commanders during US military responses to international disasters including Rwanda, the former Yugoslavia, Kosovo, and Thailand - after the 2004 SE Asian Earthquake/Tsunami.

ABOUT THE INSTRUCTORS...

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CONTACT:
For more information on upcoming sessions, please contact Graseilah Coolidge at gcoolidg@nps.edu, or (831) 656-3359



JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT ITERATION

Upcoming Sessions: September 21-22, 2010 / September 23-24, 2010

- The course will run twice sequentially. Participants need only attend one session.
- Applications are accepted via the CSRS online system.
- Deadline for applying: August 31, 2010.
- Applicants will be notified via e-mail if they have been accepted on a rolling basis starting July 1st, 2010.
- Participants will be responsible for arranging their own overnight accommodation.
- There is no tuition or conference fee.