



Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (COE-DMHA)

NEWS

Humanitarian Assistance Training for Civil Affairs Brigade heading to Iraq

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii (March 5, 2010) – A humanitarian assistance training course was executed by the Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (COE) for the 322 Civil Affairs Brigade on March 3-5. Some of the participants will be deploying to Iraq shortly.

COE executes between three to five humanitarian assistance training courses for USPACOM and its components each year, as part of its Training Assistance Program (TAP)/ Combined Humanitarian Assistance Response Training (CHART) series.

This week's workshop was specifically customized for the needs and requirements of the departing participants, who will be interacting with a wide variety of US, Iraqi and international civilian and military actors during their deployment.

“There was a lot of information available. I'm trying to pick and choose what I can use in-country,” said MSG Wilfred C. Pilar, one of the participants. “The NGO portion will be very helpful. Now, at least I have an idea of what to expect when dealing with an NGO.”

The course covered topics such as an overview of the humanitarian assistance situation in Iraq, cross-cultural understanding, as well as the mandates, mission and security concerns of civilian humanitarian organizations in conflict-affected areas, including non-governmental organizations [NGOs] and the United Nations [UN].

“It was gratifying to hear that participants found the course curriculum relevant and useful for their upcoming deployment,” said Victoria Hart, COE lead for the course.

Courses for units/components, as well as individual slots, are available by request. For more information on the course series, please contact Victoria Hart at Tel: 1 808 433 1442.

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The Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (COE-DMHA) was established by the US Congress in 1994 to facilitate civil-military management in international disaster management and humanitarian assistance. It partners with a wide variety of national and international governmental, non-governmental and international organizations to provide relevant education, training, coordination and research.

COE-DMHA, a DoD organization, is a direct reporting unit to the US Pacific Command (USPACOM) and is establishing field offices at global Combatant Commands (COCOMs) to promote global disaster preparedness and resiliency. <http://www.coe-dmha.org>