



**CENTER FOR EXCELLENCE**  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Response Training for U.S. Troops in Japan**

CAMP ZAMA, Japan (August 25, 2008) – The Hawaii-based Center for Excellence in Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (COE) is holding a training workshop for U.S. troops at Camp Zama on August 25-29, focusing on military assistance to civilian-led humanitarian assistance/disaster response operations.

The training comes amid ongoing U.S. military response to disaster situations in Asia-Pacific region.

The five-day workshop, requested by the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine-Pacific (USACHPPM-PAC), aims to provide an understanding of the international humanitarian community, such as United Nations organizations, to the military. Civilian and military personnel increasingly find themselves coordinating with each other, as was the case in the response to Cyclone Nargis earlier this year in which at least 100 U.S. military flights delivered relief supplies to Burma.

The workshop will focus on topics such as refugees, international standards for providing essentials like food and water, and public health considerations. At least 36 officers and senior non-commissioned officers will attend the Combined Humanitarian Assistance Response Training (CHART) course, which is facilitated by COE's Humanitarian Affairs and Practice Unit lead, Mr. Bobby Ray Gordon. Gordon has extensive United Nations humanitarian experience.

As part of its mandate to promote effective civil-military relations in the Asia-Pacific region, COE provides training to both civilian and military audiences.

The workshop is COE's fourth humanitarian training for the U.S. military this year, as demand for humanitarian training by the military has increased. Earlier this year, COE held training courses for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Marine Division and the III Marine Expeditionary Force in Okinawa, as well as one for staff at U.S. Pacific Command in Honolulu. A fifth humanitarian course is scheduled again in Honolulu on September 2008.

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*COE is a direct reporting unit to the U.S. Pacific Command. COE was established by the US Congress in 1994 to promote effective civil-military management in international humanitarian assistance, disaster response, and peacekeeping. It partners with a wide variety of national and international governmental, non-governmental and international organizations to provide informative, current and relevant educational events. Most of its activities are focused on the Asia-Pacific region. <http://www.coe-dmh.org>*