Trans-disciplinary Approaches to Global Disaster Preparedness

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U.S. Government: disaster response

- Three D’s of National Power ("Smart Power")
  - Defense (Dept. of Defense)
  - Diplomacy (Dept. of State)
  - Development (U.S. AID)

- **Foreign Disaster Response**
  - Ambassador is lead
  - AID Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance is lead agency
  - Defense is ‘support’ and ‘last resort’
Disaster Response Successes

• “Chinook diplomacy” (term from Wall Street Journal article) – Oct 2005 Pakistan earthquake response with helicopters, substantial positive publicity

• Haiti earthquake, 2010 – agile Special Ops Air Traffic Controllers into Port-au-Prince to open airport; better than baseline

• Japan earthquake/tsunami - 2011

• Ebola response in West Africa, 2015
The Waning of Combat Ops

from Steven Pinker,
Better Angels of our Nature
Viking Books, 2011

Source: Human Security Report Project, the Uppsala Conflict Data Project, and the Peace Research Institute of Oslo
Principles to consider

**Preparedness: prevention, mitigation**

- host nation ownership
  - ‘owner-driven, not donor-driven’
  - who is the honest broker?
- sustainability, enduring relationships
- capacity building, not dependence
- focus on outcomes, not indicators
- return on investment, relative value
- planning/exercising the plan

In DoD, we call it ‘readiness’
What DoD brings to disaster preparedness

• DoD ‘security cooperation’ program
  – build capacity of partner countries
  – disaster preparedness in this portfolio
  – CDHAM training
  – DIMO courses
  – IHS facilitators
  – DoS health advisors

• KFF report on GH
  – $600 M per year
National Guard: State Partnership Program

all 50 US states + DC, 2 territories = 65 partner countries

enduring relationships
comments and questions?

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DSCA’s mission is to lead, direct and manage security cooperation programs and resources to support national security objectives that:

- Build relationships to promote U.S. interests
- Build allied capacities for self-defense and coalition operations
- Promote peacetime and contingency access
- Partner with the U.S. State Department, the Military Departments, other U.S. Government organizations, U.S. industry, and foreign government customers to provide security cooperation programs
Transportation of Humanitarian Relief Supplies for NGOs:

10 U.S.C. § 402 (Denton Program)

- Secretary of Defense may transport to any country, without charge, supplies furnished by NGOs intended for humanitarian assistance on a space-available basis. Supplies may be distributed by U.S. agencies, foreign governments, international organizations, or non-profit relief organizations, but not DoD.

- Before transporting supplies, SECDEF must determine --
  - the transportation is consistent with U.S. foreign policy;
  - the supplies to be transported are suitable for humanitarian purposes and are in usable condition;
  - a legitimate humanitarian need exists for the supplies by the people for whom the supplies are intended;
  - the supplies will, in fact, be used for humanitarian purposes; and
  - adequate arrangements have been made for the distribution of the supplies in the destination country.
Foreign Disaster Assistance

10 U.S.C. § 404

• The President may direct the Secretary of Defense to provide disaster assistance outside the U.S. to respond to manmade or natural disasters when necessary to prevent the loss of life. Assistance provided may include transportation, supplies, services, and equipment.
  – President has delegated authority to the SECDEF with concurrence of Secretary of State
Questions?

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