



FEMA

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Activities in Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), and the American Samoa

FEMA Region IX continues to maintain a close partnership with the Pacific territories, supporting their efforts to build capacity and capabilities for emergency management and homeland security. Spearheaded by the Region's Pacific Area Office (PAO), located in Honolulu, Hawaii, the Region maintains a close working relationship with the emergency management and homeland security organizations and whole community partners throughout the Pacific.

On July 16-18, 2013, FEMA Region IX hosted a Pacific Partnership Meeting, co-hosted by Hawaii Civil Defense. Attendees included FEMA Region IX Regional Administrator Nancy Ward and Deputy Regional Administrator Karen Armes, Region IX Division Directors, and the Directors of Civil Defense/Homeland Security/Emergency Management from American Samoa, CNMI, Guam, and Hawaii. Discussions on grants, new FEMA initiatives and recent changes (e.g., Sandy Recovery Improvement Act implications) were included along with jurisdiction-specific presentations on previous years' successes and challenges. In addition, a Pacific Regional Advisory Council meeting was held in conjunction with the Partnership Meeting to allow the FEMA Region IX Regional Administrator to seek input on emergency management issues specific to the Pacific.

FEMA Region IX also continued its efforts to develop the Movement Control Unit (MCU) (also known as the Transportation Services Unit (TSU)), which coordinates the movement of resources to the incident site in accordance with unified Federal-State priorities to ensure critical incident needs are addressed effectively. The MCU/TSU has been found by FEMA Region IX to be a critical aspect of its Pan-Pacific Logistics Strategy, developed to ensure that FEMA can support its territorial partners in the Pacific. In 2013, FEMA Region IX held an MCU exercise with the U.S. Department of Defense's Pacific Command and Hawaii State Civil Defense via video teleconference with Region IX and in person with FEMA Region IX Pacific Area Office (PAO) staff to work through issues related to the MCU.

The Naval Postgraduate School Center for Homeland Defense and Security (CHDS), in partnership with other entities in the Pacific region, has developed the Pacific Executive Leaders Program (Pacific ELP), a graduate-level education curriculum, to address specific challenges facing officials in these unique areas.

This course is designed for mid- and senior-level homeland security professionals as an opportunity to develop the strategies, policies and organizational elements they need to better understand and address emerging regional security issues and public policy debates involving:

- Geographic isolation from the continental U.S. and each other
- Predisposition to various types of natural disasters
- Port security and safety concerns
- Proximity to mainland Asia and their geopolitical influences

During 2013, FEMA sponsored two one-week deliveries of the Pacific ELP for mid and senior level homeland security professionals residing in the Pacific. In 2014, similar offerings will be provided and will include representatives from Alaska and the Caribbean, in addition to the Pacific attendees.

GUAM AND COMMONWEALTH OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS (CNMI)

Other recent FEMA Region IX initiatives built upon past years' efforts to build capacity and capabilities in the Pacific. In FY11, Mass Care/Emergency Assistance (MC/EA) Task Forces were developed in Guam and CNMI to assist emergency managers in identifying specific actions required to support their mass feeding, sheltering and relief distribution plans. The effort supported the territories in establishing a multi-agency community-wide planning committee focused on the development of MC/EA Annexes to the Jurisdiction's Emergency Operations Plan (EOP). In FY12, the PAO partnered with Guam and CNMI to provide technical assistance in the development of each of these MC/EA Annexes.

Following on the development of Guam's MC/EA Annex to their EOP, the purpose of the FY13 work was to expand the efforts of the Territory of Guam to consider other unique recovery challenges that will be faced by the territory after a disaster. The FEMA Region IX team supported Guam in the development of a Debris Task Force, as another key recovery area.

Guam utilized the newly formed task force and the existing MC/EA Task Force to serve as a model for the community to come together to support the development of a Territory-wide Recovery Strategy. The Territorial Recovery Strategy will support the principles, core concepts and intent of the National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF). FEMA supported the Territorial effort by providing program, planning and recovery subject matter experts to participate in development meetings.

Similarly, in CNMI, following on the FY12 organization of their MC/EA Task Force, FEMA continued its work in FY13 in support of CNMI's efforts toward the development of a MC/EA Annex of CNMI's EOP. In addition to the continued support of the MC/EA Task Force, FEMA supported the development of a Debris Task Force. Personnel from the FEMA Region IX Office were involved in the discussion to provide the overarching context for the mission-specific task forces within the framework provided by the NDRF.

FEMA Region IX also sponsored Response Workshops in Guam and CNMI in FY13. The

Response Workshops were held as a follow-up to the Typhoon Pakyo Exercise and Training events held in the Pacific during FY12. The workshops were designed to enhance the readiness and capability between FEMA Region IX, State/Territory Emergency Management, and Civil Defense Agencies in the Pacific to jointly respond to disasters. The agenda provided the FEMA Region IX with the opportunity to work with the territories to address lessons learned from past incidents and exercises. Specifically, they discussed territorial and federal response authorities and capabilities during the response phases of an incident, as well as declarations and the Preliminary Damage Assistance process. Break-out sessions were held to allow the group to discuss the Unified Coordination Group with senior jurisdictional leadership.

Currently, FEMA Region IX is working with staff from the Guam Office of Homeland Security and Civil Defense to install a multi-hazard siren warning system, purchased with an earlier Homeland Security Grant. Installation will proceed once an environmental review is completed.

FEMA Region IX worked with the CNMI Homeland Security and Emergency Management office to equip and operationalize their new Emergency Operation Center. Both CNMI office staff will be co-located at the new facility.

Finally, in FY13, FEMA Region IX's Response and Logistics personnel traveled to Guam and CNMI for in-person meetings focusing on reviewing, defining and validating specific actions to be taken in support of FEMA's response execution checklists for each jurisdiction. These in-person meetings built upon the monthly conference calls staff had established with their Guam and CNMI response partners and built on the lessons learned from the FY13 Response Workshop in each jurisdiction.

AMERICAN SAMOA

With the arrival of a new administration in American Samoa, FEMA continued to work with the American Samoa Government and its new leadership to demonstrate improved grants implementation and monitoring. Support continued to be provided to their efforts to improve communications infrastructure and to encourage the development of mass care/emergency assistance plans.

FEMA Region IX supported the Grants Management Technical Assistance Program training provided to all American Samoa Government (ASG) staff, with emphasis on Department of Homeland Security grants and Department of Justice grants. In addition to providing grant administration training, the workshop provided an opportunity for ASG staff to cross-train and to develop productive relationships to better implement the programs.

Lastly, FEMA Region IX is working with staff from the American Samoa Office of Homeland Security and Territorial Emergency Management Coordination Office to install back-up emergency generators (currently on-site in the Manu'a Islands, others are pending maintenance and operation agreements with the hosting agencies), to implement the next phase of the Land Mobile Radio system and to acquire equipment for the Strategic Technology Reserve.