



Training Brief

Advanced Incident Command System Training, April 2007, USA

Incident Management Team Participants



Denver- IC



Amarasekera -D IC



Wijekoon- Liaison



Saravanabavan- Logistics



Janath- Operations



Bandara- Planning



Indrarathne- Finance



S.K. Shankar- IC



Chandralal -D IC



Rohana- Liaison



Attanayake- Logistics



Ratnayake- Operations



Neranjala- Planning



Gunanandana - Finance

Advanced ICS Course Instructors



Boone Emmons



Scott Vail



Bill Molumby



Patty Locke



Goerge Corley



Dane White



Tom Hamilton



Val Lynch



Mark Chambers

Introduction

A group of 15 senior Sri Lankan government officials visited the United States to learn about the organizations and structures required for establishing Incident Command System (ICS) teams for disaster management by participating in the California Interagency Incident Management Teams (CIIMT) Workshop and the Advanced ICS Workshop. This is one of a series of activities through which the Government of Sri Lanka is working together with the US IOTWS to institutionalize the Incident Command System within its government agencies. The Disaster Management Centre (DMC), under the Ministry of Disaster Management and Human Rights, adopted ICS for the disaster management of Sri Lanka.

CIIMT Workshop

Participants attended the CIIMT Workshop from April 10-12, 2007, in Reno, Nevada, which provided the tools necessary for interagency ICS personnel at all levels to perform their jobs in the most efficient and professional manner possible, regarding issues such as interagency communication, communication with news media, air operations safety, planning, logistics, and finance. The objectives of the workshop were to provide a single forum for local and national ICS teams to share the latest information; discuss real-life incident management issues, challenges, and solutions; learn new procedures and policy changes; and network with their interagency counterparts and team members.

More than 300 participants from 12 ICS teams joined the CIIMT workshop. During the breakout sessions, Sri Lankan teams and the National Incident Management Organization (NIMO) shared lessons learned on the establishment of SOPs, work plans, performance measures, operating procedures, strategic decision-making and business practices, risk assessment, and appropriate management responses. Groups also discussed section chief simulations, ICS training courses (such as S-420, S-430, and S-520), and key training manuals. An After Action Review (AAR) was facilitated at the end of the session on “what was planned”, “what happened”, and “why it happened”.



Advanced ICS Course Coordinators



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For a more comprehensive overview of ICS, visit www.us-iotws.gov.

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Advanced ICS Course (S-420)

From April 16-20, 2007, the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service (USDA/FS) conducted the Advanced ICS course for Sri Lankan officials at the Wildland Fire Training Center in McClellan, California. The objectives of the course were to provide participants maximum exposure to current disaster management practices in the United States with a focus on the Incident Command System, and to gain knowledge about the organizational management and structures required for team establishment and cohesion. The course was designed with team building processes, a variety of teaching tactics, and a simulation exercise. More than 10 instructors and coaches provided lectures and guided the participants. A simulation expert team designed and conducted the simulation exercise.

Course Evaluation

Participants recognized that the course provided full confidence and familiarity with the details to implement ICS and develop their organizations and operational structures for disaster management in Sri Lanka. ICS is a good team cohesiveness system, which helps to successfully accomplish missions and is easily applied within organizations. The team building processes helped them to understand areas for improvement, while strengthening team spirit to work towards the achievement of objectives and the establishment of solid teams.

The course provided excellent opportunities to learn teamwork and the concepts, teaching tactics, and knowledge to become expert trainers. Participants gained skills for information gathering, conducting practice simulations, and working in a stressful environment. Most importantly, participants felt they would be able to respond to emergency situations as a group by organizing operations with common objectives, delineation of authority, resources tracing, and time management.

Upcoming Activities

June 27, 2007 Full Scale Disaster Simulation Exercise, Harburdura Division, Galle District, Sri Lanka

July 14-28, 2007, 2nd Study Tour on Disaster Management, United States

About the US Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning System (IOTWS) Program

The US IOTWS Program is part of the international effort to develop tsunami warning system capabilities in the Indian Ocean following the December 2004 tsunami disaster. The US program adopts an "end-to-end" approach—addressing regional, national, and local aspects of a truly functional warning system—along with multiple other hazards that threaten communities in the region. In partnership with the international community, national governments, and other partners, the US program offers technology transfer, training, and information resources to strengthen the tsunami warning and preparedness capabilities of national and local stakeholders in the region. For more information please visit www.us-iotws.gov.

