

CD-IV-Training of the National Disaster Response Force

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Description of Module:

Items	Description of Module
Subject Name	Risk/Disaster Management
Paper Name	Capacity Development for Risk/Disaster Management
Module Name/Title	National Disaster Response Force
Module ID	CD-IV
Pre-requisites	Interest and Inquisitiveness of the candidate
Objectives	a) To expose to the National Disaster Response Force and its aims and vision b) To learn various activities such as role and mandate, uniqueness and locations of NDRF
Keywords	National Calamities, Multi-disciplinary, Multi-skilled, High-Tech Force, Mock Drills, Battalions, National Industrial Security Academy (NISA).

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1. Introduction

The DM Act has made the statutory provisions for constitution of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) for the purpose of specialized response to natural and man-made disasters. Accordingly, in 2006 NDRF was constituted with 08 Bns (02 Bn each from Border Security Force (BSF), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)). The DM Act, 2005 envisages a paradigm shift from the erstwhile response centric syndrome to a proactive, holistic and integrated management of disasters with emphasis on prevention, mitigation and preparedness.

2. Learning outcome

The candidate's knowledge and information about NDMA will be expanded. Also exposed to various locations of battalions and their specific role in the event of disasters. They will also be equipped with various skills that can be used to save many lives during the disaster.

3. About NDRF

Two national calamities in quick succession in the form of Orissa Super Cyclone (1999) and Gujarat Earthquake (2001) brought about the realization of the need for having a specialist response mechanism at National Level to effectively respond to disasters.

NDRF has proved its importance in achieving the distinction of having highly skilled manpower, rescue and relief operations, regular and intensive training and re-training, capacity building & familiarization exercises within the area of responsibility of respective NDRF Bns, carrying out mock drills and joint exercises with the various stakeholders.

Vision of NDRF is to emerge as the most visible and vibrant multi-disciplinary, multi-skilled, high-tech force capable to deal with all types of natural as well as manmade disasters and to mitigate the effects of disasters.

3.1 Role and Mandate of NDRF

- Specialized response during disasters
- Proactive deployment during impending disaster situations
- Acquire and continually upgrade its own training and skills
- Liaison, Reconnaissance, Rehearsals and Mock Drills
- Impart basic and operational level training to State Response Forces (Police, Civil Defence and Home Guards)
- All NDRF Bns are actively engaged in various Community Capacity Building Programmes, Public Awareness Campaigns and Exhibitions : Posters, Pamphlets, literatures

3.2 Unique Force

- The only dedicated disaster response force of the world.
- The only agency with comprehensive response capabilities having multi-disciplinary and multi-skilled, high-tech, stand alone nature.
- Experienced paramilitary personnel specially trained and equipped for disaster response.
- Capabilities for undertaking disaster response, prevention, mitigation and capacity building.

3.3 Organisation

At present, National Disaster Response Force consists of ten battalions, three each from the BSF and CRPF and two each from CISF and ITBP. Each battalion have 18 self-contained specialist search and rescue teams of 45 personnel each including engineers, technicians, electricians, dog squads and medical/paramedics. The total strength of each battalion is 1,149. Union cabinet has also approved the conversion/up-gradation of 02 Bns from SSB. All the ten battalions have been equipped and trained to respond natural as well as man-made disasters. Four battalions of them are also trained and equipped for response during chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) emergencies.

4. Locations of NDRF Battalions

These NDRF battalions are located at ten different locations in the country based on the vulnerability profile of country and to cut down the response time for their deployment at disaster site. The present location of NDRF Bns are as follows:

Sl. No.	NDRF Bn	State	Category
1	NDRF Bn, Ghaziabad	Uttar Pradesh	ITBP
2	NDRF Bn, Bhatinda	Punjab	ITBP
3	NDRF Bn, Kolkata	West Bengal	BSF
4	NDRF Bn, Guwahati	Assam	BSF
5	NDRF Bn, Mundali	Orissa	CISF
6	NDRF Bn, Arakkonam	Tamil Nadu	CISF
7	NDRF Bn, Pune	Maharashtra	CRPF
8	NDRF Bn, Gandhinagar	Gujarat	CRPF
9	NDRF Bn, Patna	Bihar	BSF
10	NDRF Bn, Guntur	Andhra Pradesh	CRPF

5. Civil Defence

The concept of Civil Defence owes its origin to erstwhile ARP Organisation raised and operated during World War II (1939-45) to safeguard the life and property of the civilian population and also to maintain the continuity of productive and economic activity of the nation during war time crisis. The ARP Organisation worked commendably during World War II. After the end of the war in 1945, the Organisation was wound up.

The Civil Defence concept once again got a proper thrust immediately after Sino-Indian conflict during October, 1962. The post of Director General, Civil Defence (DGCD) was created and first DG, CD was appointed on 14th November, 1962. Civil Defence aims at saving life, minimising damage to the property and maintaining continuity of industrial production in the event of an hostile attack.

The Civil Defence Policy of the Government of India till the declaration of emergency in 1962, was confined to making the States and Union Territories conscious of the need of civil protection measures and to ask them to keep ready civil protection plans for major cities and towns under the then Emergency Relief Organisation (ERO) scheme. Chinese aggression in 1962 and Indo-Pak conflict in 1965 led to a considerable re-thinking about the policy and scope of Civil Defence. As a result, the Civil Defence

Policy as it exists today, was evolved and Civil Defence legislation was enacted in the Parliament in 1968. The country was subjected to further hostile attacks from Pakistan in December, 1971 when the Civil Defence Organisation acquitted itself commendably.

Due to technological advancement in last few decades the environment of the globe has undergone a significant change. The climate change is resulting into many natural disasters with increasing frequency and the changed socio-economic and political scenario has resulted into new emerging challenges to internal security threats. To meet the challenges of the day, the Civil Defence Act was suitably amended by the Civil Defence (Amendment) Act, 2009 by Notification No.3 of 2010, to include the disaster management as an additional role for the Civil Defence Corps, while retaining its primary role.

6. Home Guards

Home Guards is a voluntary force, first raised in India in December, 1946, to assist the police in controlling civil disturbance and communal riots. Subsequently, the concept of the voluntary citizens force was adopted by several States. In the wake of Chinese aggression in 1962, the Centre advised the State and Union Territories to merge their existing voluntary organisation into one uniform voluntary force known as Home Guards. The role of Home Guards is to serve as an auxiliary to the police in maintenance of internal security, help the community in any kind of emergency such as an air-raid, fire, cyclone, earthquake, epidemic etc., help in maintenance of essential services, promote communal harmony and assist the administration in protecting weaker sections, participate in socio-economic and welfare activities and perform Civil Defence duties. Home Guards are of two types - rural and urban. In border States, Border Wing Home Guards Bns. have also been raised, which serve as an auxiliary to the Border Security Force.

Eighteen Border Wing Home Guards (BWHG) Battalions have been raised in the border States to serve as an auxiliary to Border Security Force for preventing infiltration on the international border/coastal areas, guarding of VA/VPs and lines of communication in vulnerable areas at the time of external aggression.

7. Fire Cell

Fire prevention and fire fighting services are organised by the States/UTs. Ministry of Home Affairs renders technical advice to States/UTs and Central Ministries on Fire Protection, Fire Prevention and Fire Legislation.

Training of junior level fire professionals are conducted by the States/UTs in State Fire Training Schools. At the moment 14 such State Fire Training Schools are operating in various States/UTs. Training of officers of Fire Services is conducted in the National Fire Service College which was established in Nagpur as a subordinate training establishment of the Ministry, way back in 1956.

Standing Fire Advisory Council (SFAC) constituted by the Ministry is the apex body of Fire & Safety experts comprised of Heads of Fire Services of all States & UTs. SFAC advises Govt. of India on various aspects on fire and safety. Recently, Ministry compiled all recommendations of SFAC (up-dated upto latest 38th meeting) and The Compendium of Recommendations of SFAC has been printed and circulated it to all concerned.

8. Programme for Enhancement of Emergency Response (PEER)

The Program for Enhancement of Emergency Response (PEER) is a regional training program initiated in 1998 by the U.S. Agency for International Development Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (USAID/OFDA) to strengthen disaster response capacities in four Asian countries: India, Indonesia, Nepal, and the Philippines. These countries were selected to participate in the program based on their high seismic vulnerability, their need to improve their disaster response capacity, and the interest on the part of their national governments to participate in the program. All of the involved countries have either prepared disaster response policies or have access to institutions to help them develop disaster response policies, but they do not have adequate emergency/disaster response capacity-building programs, as evidenced by a lack of training curriculum, instructors, and agencies to offer training on a regular basis. While emergency medical response is at a different stage of development in each of the four countries, none of them has a fully established emergency medical response service. For these reasons, PEER was selected by OFDA as the best intervention to improve the standards of disaster response and preparedness in the four countries. The Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, Thailand managed the program from 1999-2003. Miami-Dade Fire Department, Florida, USA, collaborated with ADPC to implement Phase I of the program. PEER Phase I served to establish the program foundation within each of the participating countries, to test and adapt the courses to the Asian context, and to start developing a pool of instructors to conduct the courses PEER Phase II, 2003-2008, includes the four PEER countries, with the addition of Bangladesh. The National Society for Earthquake Technology– Nepal manages PEER in collaboration with three U.S. Partners: International Resources Group (IRG), Johns Hopkins University/Center for International Emergencies, Disasters and Refugee Studies (CIEDRS), and Safety Solutions, Inc.

By January 2006, a total of forty-six training events have been conducted in five countries, developing 826 personnel from various emergency response agencies in Asia. Among these, 328 are certified instructors for Medical First Responders (MFR), Collapsed Structure Search and Rescue (CSSR), and Hospital Disaster Preparedness (HOPE) courses. Among all the partner-countries, India has the most number of trained instructors for MFR and CSSR. In implementing the program in the Asian Region, National Society for Earthquake Technology (NSET) has collaborated with three agencies, all based in United States of America. International Resources Group (IRG) for program management, Safety Solutions, Incorporated for technical components of MFR and CSSR courses, and Johns Hopkins University–Center for International Emergency Disaster and Refugee Studies (CIEDRS) for HOPE programming

8.1 Peer Stage 1 (1998-2003)

This is the introductory phase, bringing the experience from Latin American Countries (LAC) to Asia at the regional level. Stage 1 targets four countries, namely, India, Indonesia, Nepal and the Philippines. In this stage, partnerships with key stakeholders from the beneficiary countries were established; the training curriculum utilized in LAC was adapted to Asian context; and development of initial core of instructors for the Medical First Responder (MFR) and Collapsed Structure Search and Rescue (CSSR) courses was started in these countries, in coordination with national partnering agencies. Hospital preparedness for Emergencies (HOPE) course was developed and piloted in Stage 1. PEER stage 1 was implemented by the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC), Bangkok.

8.2 Peer Stage 2 (2003-2009)

The National Society for Earthquake Technology – Nepal (NSET) managed the Stage 2 of PEER in the four initial countries, with the addition of Bangladesh in 2003 and after the 2005 Kashmir Earthquake, Pakistan was added in 2007. The focus of this stage was on the institutionalization of PEER core courses

(MFR, CSSR and HOPE). The HOPE Course was finalized, tested, implemented and institutionalized in the six countries. Responding to the need to develop HOPE instructors, NSET reoriented the TFI course into HOPE-TFI and conducted instructors' development training program. In the final year of Stage 2, HOPE Course was reviewed and reoriented to address multi-hazard situations, giving it a facelift from its earlier focus on seismic risks. The new HOPE curriculum was finalized, piloted and implemented in the later stage of Stage 2. Refresher courses on MFR and CSSR were also developed and piloted.

NSET assisted the partner countries in adapting the MFR and CSSR curricula, and continued developing national cadre of PEER instructors, to include course coordinators and course monitors. NSET collaborated with three U.S. partners, namely, International Resources Group (IRG), Johns Hopkins University/Center for International Emergencies, Disasters and Refugee Studies (CIEDRS), and Safety Solutions, Inc., for the implementation of PEER Stage2.

8.3 Peer Stage 3 (2009-2014)

PEER Stage 3 carries on with the efforts and successes of Stages 1 and 2, and that is, furthering the institutionalization of MFR and CSSR courses in the 6 project countries; and continuation of HOPE course in the same countries, expanding to additional three Asian countries, namely, Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam. A new concept is added to the PEER's programme scope - the Community Action for Disaster Response (CADRE), further bringing down the training of emergency response to the local level.

8.4 PEER in India

The Government of India has institutionalized the PEER program in India, and are using the PEER program to support development of a "state of the art" capacity and equipment within India for urban search and rescue and medical first response, including hospital preparedness.

India has already started the institutionalization process of PEER within two existing institutions – National Industrial Security Academy (NISA), Hyderabad and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), Chandigarh. They have identified two new institutions – B.S.F. Academy, Tekanpur and Basic Training college, CRPF, Coimbatore for similar activities and to work towards developing a program that provides consistency and uniformity for training first responders, and that builds the capacity of these institutions to conduct their own training.

PEER implements activities in India under the coordinating authority of the Ministry of Home Affairs and National Disaster management Authority. The designated training institutions for Medical First Responder (MFR) and Collapsed Structure Search and Rescue (CSSR) courses are the National Industrial Security Academy (NISA) at Hyderabad and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) at Chandigarh.

8.4.1 Collapsed Structure Search and Rescue (CSSR)

CSSR is a PEER course, currently being managed and run by National Society for Earthquake Technology (NSET), Nepal. Important parts of the course are included in the basic CADRE course too – for training communities. This is a course for non-professionals to learn how to rescue people from collapsed buildings after an earthquake, fire, mudslide or other disaster. It uses techniques that do not require very technical skills in equipment use. This means it is more accessible and practical for people to learn.

8.4.2 *Medical First Responder (MFR)*

8.4.2.1 *Background*

MFR is a thirteen-day course of the Program for Enhancement of Emergency Response that was developed by the United States Agency for International Development through its Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance together in collaboration with the Miami-Dade Fire Rescue Department, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, and National Society for Earthquake Technology-Nepal. The course has been delivered in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Thailand and the Philippines.

8.4.2.2 *Target Audience*

Emergency and disaster first response groups, i.e. Fire Departments, Red Cross/Red Crescent Societies, Police Departments, Rescue Groups associated with government emergency response system.

8.4.2.3 *Course Methodology and Content:*

The course is delivered in thirteen days by eight instructors with four assistant instructors using the interactive lecture method (ILM) of instruction that is objective based, performance oriented, tested, and highly participatory. The experience of the instructors is enriched by the interaction between the participants. Interactive lectures and demonstration practice sessions are used to present the course content with exercises and written evaluations used to assess participant learning.

8.4.2.4 *Emergency Medical Systems and the Medical First Responder*

The following specialised medical assistance/treatment are covered and participants are trained in these activities:

- Infectious Disease and Precautions
- The Incident
- Anatomical References
- Patient Assessment
- Basic Life Support and Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
- Oxygen Therapy
- Hemorrhage and Shock
- Soft-Tissue Injuries
- Musculoskeletal Injuries
- Skull, Spinal and Chest Injuries
- Burns and Environmental Injuries
- Emergencies
- Poisoning

9. Summary

The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has emerged from the dire need of the country. This has legal back-up through the Disaster Management Act and proved its capability during major disasters that have occurred during the recent past. The vision and aim of NDRF is to make an impact on the losses that the society meets in terms of human as well as material property. The training and capacity building activities of NDRF are noteworthy and created an army of trained volunteers from the community to meet the impending challenges.

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