

**ITU DISASTER MANAGEMENT
CONFERENCE
14 APRIL 2007**

**SECURITY LESSONS LEARNED IN THE
WAKE OF THE PAKISTAN EARTHQUAKE
THAT WERE PLACED INTO PRACTICE IN
EGYPT**

Presented by

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08 OCT 2005
PAKISTAN EARTHQUAKE



DEVASTATED TOWN OF BALAKOT

18,000 DEAD

40,000 INJURED

LACK OF EARLY INFORMATION WAS A KEY PROBLEM

- **INITIALLY THERE WAS ONLY A TRICKLE OF INFORMATION.**
- **WHAT INFORMATION DID MAKE IT THROUGH WAS CONFUSED AND CONTRADICTORY.**
- **INFORMATION AVAILABLE WAS GROSSLY INSUFFICIENT FOR UN AGENCY PLANNING.**

HUMANITARIAN ASSESSMENTS ARE NEAR TO IMPOSSIBLE WITHOUT ACCURATE AND DETAILED INFORMATION.

THE RESULT:

THE WORLD WAS LARGELY UNAWARE OF THE CATASTROPHIC IMPACT OF THE DISASTER IN THE FIRST 24 HOURS.

IMPACT ON GOVERNMENT

- **GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WERE UNAVAILABLE: SOME WERE DEAD; SOME WERE ATTENDING TO THEIR DECEASED RELATIVES; SOME WERE IN SHOCK AND CONFUSED.**
- **THERE WAS A TOTAL DEPENDENCY ON MILITARY TO ORGANIZE RELIEF EFFORTS AND TO CREATE A RESPONSE STRUCTURE.**

RESULT:

THERE WAS NO TRULY FUNCTIONING CIVIL ADMINISTRATION IN THE REGION. ARMY GENERALS WERE PLACED IN-CHARGE.

IMPACT ON SECURITY FORCES

- **MANY POLICE STATIONS WERE IN RUBBLE.**
- **POLICEMEN DESERTED THEIR POSTS TO CHECK ON FAMILIES.**
- **THE SECURITY ASSETS THAT REMAINED WERE NEGLIGIBLE TO SUPPORT RELIEF WORKERS.**
- **POLICE COMMUNICATION LINES WERE SEVERELY AFFECTED.**

RESULT:

SECURITY FORCES WERE UNABLE TO PERFORM BASIC FUNCTIONS.

DESTROYED BATTAGRAM POLICE HQ



INITIAL LOSS OF LAW & ORDER

- **HIGHWAY ROBBERY BY LOCALS -- ATTACKS ON ANY MOVING VEHICLE IN SEARCH OF AID GOODS.**
- **LOOTING OF SHOPS AND NEWLY ESTABLISHED RELIEF STOCKS AND WAREHOUSES.**
- **HIJACKING/ROBBING SLOW MOVING CONVOYS -- THEFT WHILE TRUCKS WERE MOBILE.**

The Result:

FEAR AND UNCERTAINTY WERE COMMON PLACE. THE NEED FOR ARMED SECURITY ESCORTS BECAME PARAMOUNT. THE PROTECTION OF RELIEF WORKERS AND THEIR CAMPS AROUND THE CLOCK WAS ALSO ESSENTIAL.

POORLY EQUIPPED POLICE TO ESCORT AID WORKERS



LOSS OF INFRASTRUCTURE

- **COLLAPSED AND BLOCKED ROADS.**
- **TOTAL LOSS OF CLEAN WATER SUPPLY SYSTEM.**
- **PARTIAL LOSS OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE.**
- **PARTIAL LOSS OF UN VHF SYSTEM.**
- **HOSPITALS IN SOME CASES WERE NON-FUNCTIONAL.**

RESULT:

THERE WAS AN INABILITY TO REACH DISASTER AREAS. HELICOPTERS BECAME PRIMARY MODE OF TRANSPORT. STORES OF BOTTLED WATER REQUIRED. MEDICAL SUPPORT IMMEDIATELY NEEDED.



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AMBULANCE

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LZ - CDT

UNITED NATIONS HUMANITARIAN AIR SERVICE

UN

World Food Programme

Program

UN LESSONS LEARNED AND IMPLEMENTED IN EGYPT

**WE MUST BE MORE PREPARED TO GO IT ALONE IN THE
WAKE OF A MAJOR NATURAL DISASTER.**

**WE ESTABLISHED AN EMERGENCY COORDINATION
CENTER THAT INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING: MEETING
AREA, OFFICE-INSTALLED SAT PHONES, VHF RADIO
ROOM, VIDEO- AND TELE-CONFERENCING, BACK-UP
SERVER, ALTERNATE E-MAIL DOMAIN, WIFI, GOOGLE
EARTH MAPPING, STOCK-PILED FOOD & WATER, STOCKS
OF SURGICAL MASKS, GLOVES & BODY BAGS, BLANKETS,
MEDICAL SUPPLIES AND OTHER EMERGENCY ITEMS.**

UN LESSONS LEARNED AND ACTIONS TAKEN IN EGYPT

- **WE PURCHASED MORE SAT PHONES.**
- **WE IMPROVED OUR CURRENT VHF COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM.**
- **WE ARE RESEARCHING THE POSSIBLE USE OF A COMMERCIALY AVAILABLE UHF COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM (TETRA).**
- **WE PRE-IDENTIFIED THE BEST MEDICAL TRAUMA CENTERS IN CAIRO.**
- **WE PRE-COORDINATED WITH THE EGYPTIAN SEARCH AND RESCUE UNIT.**

GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

- **MANAGEMENT MUST LEARN TO ANTICIPATE WORST CASE SCENARIOS.**
- **PREPARATION AND PLANNING ARE ESSENTIAL.**
- **MULTIPLE REDUNDANT COMMUNICATIONS MEANS (LAND-LINE, CELL, VHF OR UHF, HF, INTERNET AND SAT) ARE CRITICAL TO A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME.**
- **STAFF TRAINING IS CRITICALLY IMPORTANT.**
- **4X4 VEHICLES ARE SUPERIOR TO SEDANS WHEN ROAD HAZARDS ABOUND.**
- **THE PRE-STOCKING OF EMERGENCY ITEMS IS REQUIRED.**

Note: Photos and Pakistan observations provided by Deputy Security Advisor for Egypt, Fady El Murr.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

QUESTIONS?