Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief Efforts
We are here for you!

International Regional Response

6. Apr 2007: Solomon Islands Tsunami Response
7. Nov - Dec 2007: Sea Angel II Bangladesh
8. May - Jun 2008: Caring Response Burma
9. Aug 2008: Taiwan Typhoon Relief
10. Oct 2008: Philippine Typhoon & Indonesian Earthquake Relief
11. Oct 2010: Philippine Typhoon Megi Relief
14. Dec 2012: Philippine Typhoon Bopha Relief
15. Nov 2013: Philippine Typhoon Haiyan Relief
17. Not If, But When!!

The capabilities of the MAGTF, combined with our forward basing, co-located headquarters, and ability to rapidly deploy, have been crucial to our ability to respond to crises in the region. This chart shows the major Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief operations we have conducted just in the last decade.

Nation-Wide Preparedness with Japan

Japan disaster preparedness
After the devastating Great East Japan Earthquake and Tsunami of 2011, the U.S. Marine Corps recognizes it could be called to assist again, and works closely with the Government of Japan, the Self-Defense Forces, prefectures, local authorities and a variety of civilian organizations to promote preparedness and readiness through enhanced training, sharing lessons learned, reciprocal visits and exchanges, and furthering the face-to-face cooperation and interoperability that is critical when responding to natural disasters in order to save lives.

Local Community Preparedness with Okinawa

Disaster drills on all bases with community participation
Residents of Ginowan City and Chatan Town participate in a humanitarian assistance evacuation drill at Camp Foster in 2012. The residents walked the southern tsunami evacuation route of Camp Foster’s two evacuation routes following the signing of the Local Implementation Agreement, which offers access to the routes in the event of a natural disaster.

Individual camps conduct disaster preparedness training with their city counterparts, resulting in strong partnerships which will reduce suffering in the event of a disaster. Exercise Constant Vigilance 2015, the Churashima Rescue Exercise, Marine Corps participation in the Okinawa Prefectural Disaster exercises and annual disaster exercises at each camp showcase the Marine Corps, prefectural and city governments, Japan Ground Self Defense Forces, and civilian agencies cooperating and learning together for the single goal of saving lives in the event of a disaster in Okinawa.

Other Preparedness Programs

Medical Exchange Programs
- US Naval Hospital Japanese Physician Intern Program
- Implementation of Okinawa organ donor project
- Disaster/emergency response exchange and joint medical training with Okinawa Prefectural Hospitals and Ryuku University General Hospital
- Medical exchange program with Ryuku Rehabilitation Institute by Camp Hansen

Disaster Cooperation
- Operation Tomodachi lessons learned briefs and exchanges
- Visiting lectures and exchanges with Japanese and American disaster experts

Advance Disaster Preparation Saves Lives - In Every Clime and Place

For a video describing our disaster work, go to: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rtVc5y_CgIY
For information on the Marine Corps disaster cooperation work, visit: www.okinawa.usmc.mil