PACIFIC ISLAND DISASTER RESPONSE

The Need for Community-Based Planning in the Calm Before the (next) Storm

Michael Termini, MD, MPH
Preventive Medicine Department Head
CNRH Public Health Emergency Officer
Naval Health Clinic Hawaii
michael.termini@med.navy.mil

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Personal Statement

The views expressed in this presentation are those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official policy or position of the Department of the Navy, Department of Defense, nor the U.S. Government.

OBJECTIVES

- Discuss weaknesses in US Navy Health Engagements.
- Show how a major change in the disaster cycle has led to "the prepared community concept."
- Discuss how this concept can markedly improve response and recovery.

Disaster cycle is a common language framework

Military is response focused leaving scant prevention and preparedness assets behind

US Navy Pacific Partnership Evolution

- Disaster response identified major weaknesses:
  - Lack of pre-planning
  - Lack of international cooperation

- Ongoing focus of effort:
  - Cooperation
  - Disaster Response
  - Interagency Cooperation
  - Regional Partnerships
  - NGO Engagement
  - Training and Readiness

Weaknesses of the Current Military Community Health Engagements Model

- Traditional "top down" approach
- Tend to focus on direct patient care
- Short-sighted and self serving
- Measured by military effort not outcomes
  - *"The MEDCAP portion was an outstanding success. Eight remote village locations were reached and over 7,000 patients received health care."*
- Planners lack humanitarian and disaster response experience and appreciation of the local culture.

RESILIENCY*

- Resiliency is a "concept"… "theory"… "metaphor"
- Building resilience, hopefully…
  1. Prevents unacceptable fatalities and suffering
  2. Reduces costs of emergency response
  3. Allows adaptation… until the crisis ebbs
- Identifying operational solutions is not easy
- No one discipline or nation has all the answers

* Burkle F.M, DMPHP, 2011; Levine S, brief 49, 2012

Disaster Cycle: Adding the "Two A's"

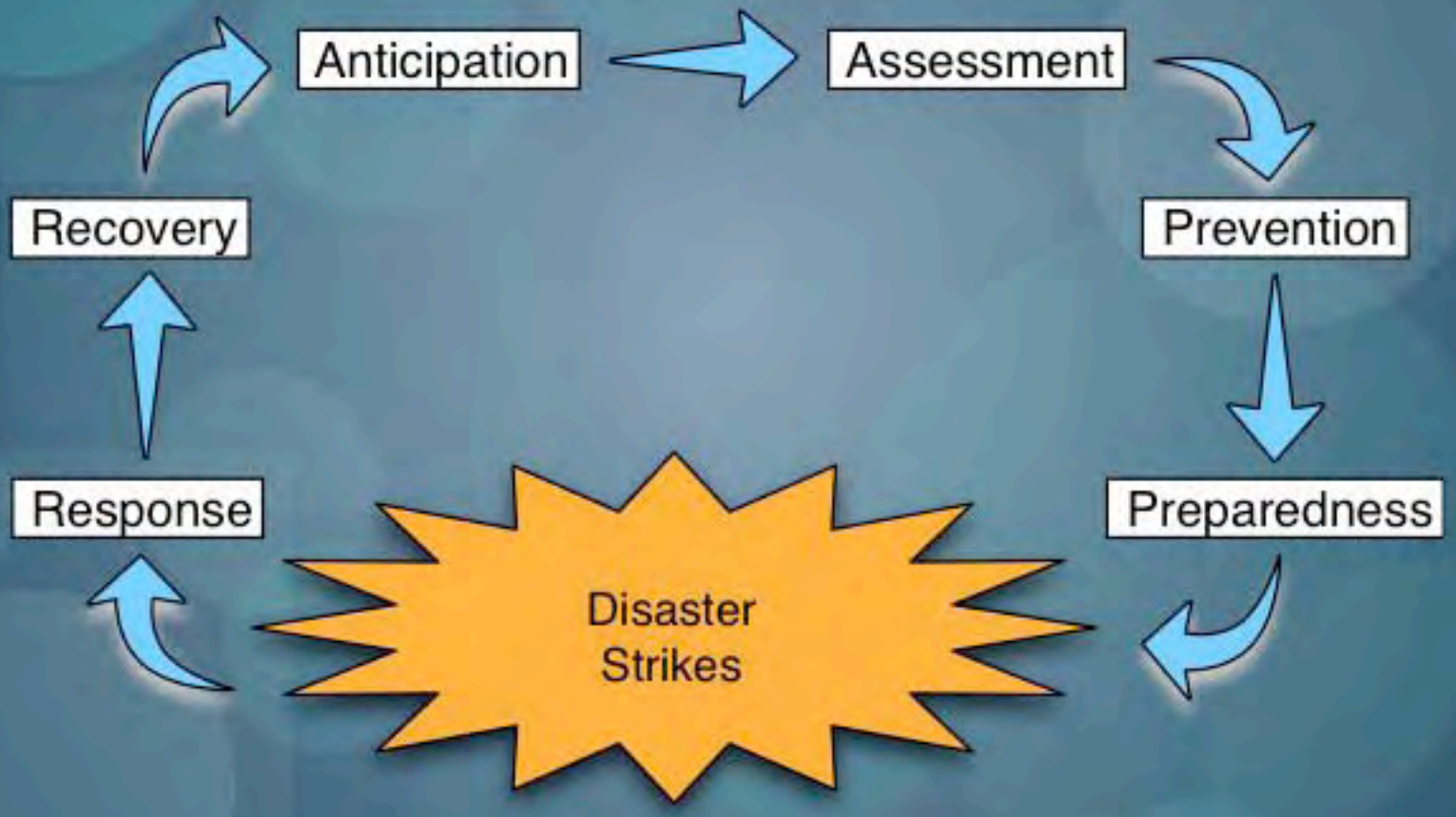
PREVENTION-PREPAREDNESS-RESPONSE-RECOVERY (PPRR)

ANTICIPATION-ASSESSMENT-PREVENTION-PREPAREDNESS-RESPONSE-RECOVERY (AAPPRR)*

Crisis response and recovery more effective and efficient

* Rogers P. Development of resilient Australia: enhancing the PPRR approach with anticipation, assessment and registration of risks. Aus J Emerg Management. 2011;26(1):54-58.

Disaster Cycle: Adding the "Two A's"



Building Disaster Resiliency*

...at each disaster cycle phase

* Duffy N. Using social media to build community disaster resilience Aus J Emerg Management. 2/2012

Crisis / Disaster Diplomacy*

- Increased severity of natural disasters
- Increasing risk as public health infrastructure declines
- Demand for evolving models of cultural interaction
- Requirements under the OSLO Guidelines

* Callaway DW, Yim ES, Stack C, Burkle FM. Integrating the disaster cycle model into traditional disaster diplomacy concepts. DMPHP 2012 Mar;6(1):53-9.

Crisis / Disaster Diplomacy

A full spectrum strategy that deploys a flexible variety of tactics throughout the disaster cycle to provide:

- ✓ Regional stability
- ✓ Encourage good governance
- ✓ Support human rights
- ✓ Restore Public Health protections
- ✓ Strengthen community resilience

The Boston Globe Nation

Chief of US Pacific forces calls climate biggest worry

By Bryan Bender | GLOBE STAFF MARCH 09, 2013

CAMBRIDGE — America's top military officer in charge of monitoring hostile actions by North Korea, escalating tensions between China and Japan, and a spike in computer attacks traced to China provides an unexpected answer when asked what is the biggest long-term security threat in the Pacific region: climate change.

JAY DIRECTO/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

Admiral Samuel J. Locklear III met privately with security and foreign policy specialists at Harvard and Tufts universities Thursday and Friday.

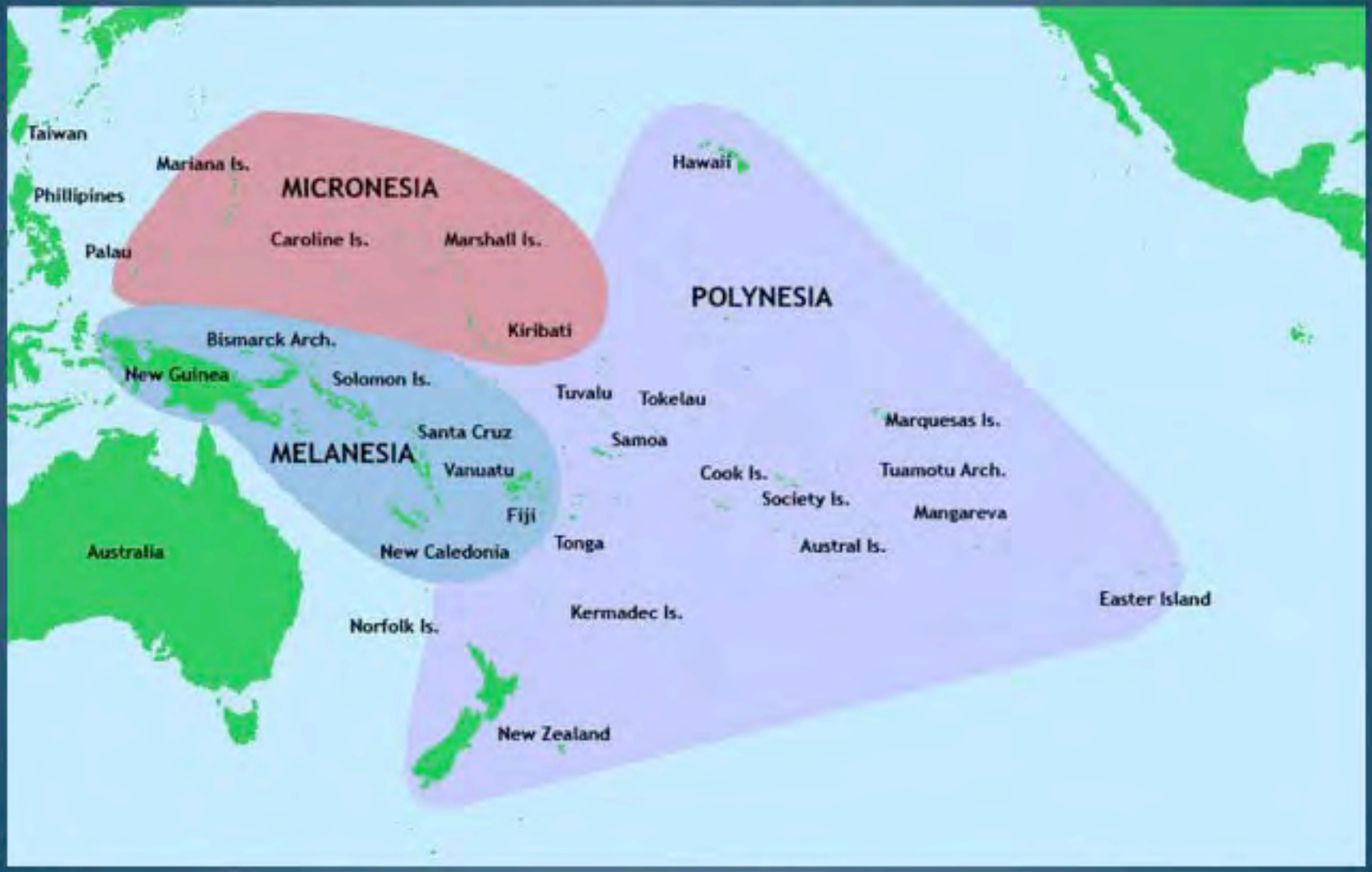
Navy Admiral Samuel J. Locklear III, in an interview at a Cambridge hotel Friday after he met with scholars at Harvard and Tufts universities, said significant upheaval related to the warming planet "is probably the most likely thing that is going to happen . . . that will cripple the security environment, probably more likely than the other scenarios we all often talk about."

"People are surprised sometimes," he added, describing the reaction to his assessment. "You have the real potential here in the not-too-distant future of nations displaced by rising sea level. Certainly weather patterns are more severe than they have been in the past. We are on super typhoon 27 or 28 this year in the Western Pacific. The average is about 17."

Military CHE and the Expanded Disaster Cycle

- Goal in reshaping military led CHE in the Pacific Islands:
  1. Reduce vulnerabilities and disaster-related risks
  2. Operationalize a systematic approach that improves resilience builds capacity

Why focus on the Pacific Islands?



Because each one is discreet and unique

The Story of Rabaul

The Story of Rabaul

Disaster Risk Reduction at PACOM

ANTICIPATION | ASSESSMENT | PREVENTION | PREPAREDNESS | RESPONSE | RECOVERY & REHABILITATION

"PREPARED COMMUNITY" MODEL

- Community leaders anticipate disaster-specific risks
- Community leaders provide assessments unique to community requirements
- Prevention and preparedness projects based on initial assessments
- Risks incorporated into National Risk Register and fulfilled at regional level
- At time of a disaster resources are automatically sent to the community
- Secondary assessments implemented

MODEL ADAPTED TO PACIFIC ISLANDS

- PACOM expert teams facilitate disaster-specific assessments unique to community requirements
- Assessments are vetted at national and PACOM levels
- Risk Reduction Register established at PACOM and/or regionally to bank resources
- Prevention and preparedness projects initiated based on community assessments
- At time of disaster, banked resources and expert teams are automatically sent to the affected community
- Secondary assessments implemented

Fostering Resiliency at the Community Level

Disaster Risk Reduction at PACOM

- Steps to Implementation:
  1. Reorganize and integrate all PACOM CHE
  2. Facilitate a dialogue with community leaders
  3. Share risk reduction information
  4. Establish a regional computerized risk register
  5. Utilize competency based planning teams
  6. Deploy resources after a crisis
  7. Develop a data analysis capability to monitor outcomes

Common Mistakes*

- Don't assume the community lacks experience
- Recognize capacity of capable, non-expert citizens and community organizers
- Recognize myriad of inter-linked community networks
- Crisis / disaster risk reduction has to be at the local level

* Burkle FM Jr. Population-based triage management in response to surge-capacity requirements during a large-scale bioevent disaster. *Acad Emerg Med.* 2006 Nov;13(11):1118-29.

Improving CHE is a Global Responsibility

- Supports OSLO Guidelines*
  - "In order to protect the principles of humanity, neutrality & impartiality and at the same time be prepared to use these valuable resources in extraordinary circumstances, we need to maintain a continuous professional dialogue with military and civil defense organizations throughout the world"
- ASEAN
  - Move from strictly economic, trade and cultural issues to regional crisis/disaster prevention and preparedness

* Bourdeaux ME, Lawry L, Bonventre EV, Burkle. FM. Involvement of the US Department of Defense in Civilian Assistance. DMPHP. 2010;4(1):66-73.

Coordinated Effort

Coordinated Effort

In Summary…

- The resilient community is a global movement
- Add Anticipation and Assessment to the disaster cycle
- AA-PP-RR: Moves management from top-down to bottom-up, putting the community in the driver's seat
- Develop a Risk Registry of resources managed at the PACOM level
  - Makes response and recovery more effective and efficient
- The proposed approach enhances regional security and improves the quality of health engagements

Questions?