The AFP is a member of National Disaster Reduction Management Council and it leads the search and rescue cluster. If there’s a major emergency, they’re the one who augment the local search and rescue teams being maintained by the local government units. They have a joint task force for the National Capital Region (NCR). During the time of Typhoon Ulysses when Marikina was submerged, they had a joint team not just from the AFB but also from the coast guard, BFP, PNP who supported the search and rescue missions for the families that were affected by the flooding situations in Marikina and Rizal area.

The AFP upgraded their assets and equipment. These are used to support the response operations like using the black helicopters not just for the disaster assessment and aerial inspection but also for the delivery of the relief items to the communities, transfer and evacuation of the people that was caught up in the emergencies, and for the deployment of additional support teams for search and rescue.

The war ships are also being used as ferry to transport relief items to the island community. The bulk relief items from the major warehouses are transferred by AFP using the war ship and air assets. Some air assets are bought from the United States of America but the jet fighters are not being used. (C130, C295, Dell helicopters?) Also use in preparation for the bingwa in Metro Manila, support the search and rescue operation for the collapse structure caused by the earthquakes. The AFP are the main actors to response in the massive operations. Currently, they have two teams. One from the Army and the other is from the Air Force accredited by International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG). They accredit teams from various countries. They accredit search and rescue teams if the trainings, capability, and equipment pass the international standards.

The **International Search and Rescue Advisory Group** (**INSARAG**) is a network of disaster-prone and disaster-responding countries and organizations dedicated to [urban search and rescue](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Urban_search_and_rescue) (USAR) and operational field coordination. It aims to establish standards and classification for international USAR teams as well as a methodology for international response coordination in the aftermath of earthquakes and collapsed structure disasters. The INSARAG Secretariat is located in the [United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_Nations_Office_for_the_Coordination_of_Humanitarian_Affairs) (OCHA) at the [Palais des Nations](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palais_des_Nations) in [Geneva](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Geneva).

It is primarily job of the local police to response the major disaster but the AFP still provide a support especially there’s a problem like the ongoing communist insurgency in the Philippines. During operations the communist insurgence ambush relief convoys. They tried to steal the relief items and it became a norm in the country. With the upgraded capabilities and with the help of continues training this is being prevented to happen. Some NPA were killed because of the strict security that guarding the convoys of the reliefs that’s why the NPA are resorting to the use of Anti-Personnel Landmine.

There are heroic awardees in the ambush situation. These are the truck drivers that was ambushed but still managed to deliver the complete reliefs and complete relief personnel in the evacuation site despite of being shot by the NPA.

The Local Government Units are the frontliners in terms of disaster management. If the degree of the emergency has gone beyond the capability of the local government unit, they inform the higher organ. Each municipalities in Metro Manila have their own local disaster management council and all of them are well equipped to handle emergencies, but in case the magnitude of the emergency is beyond the capability, they will inform the Metropolitan Manila Disaster Coordinating Council (MMDCC). which is headed by the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) Chairperson, **Atty.Romando Artes.**

Since Metro Manila is the capital of the Philippines, and National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) is located there, they’re always ready to provide support to the local government unit which involve the deployment of AFP, the coast guards, all uniform services and all other possible assets of the government that is set aside to support major operations.

The NDRRMC plans and leads the guiding activities in the field of communication, warning signals, emergency, transportation, evacuation, rescue, engineering, health and rehabilitation, public education and auxiliary services such as firefighting and the police in the country.

To AFP, resources is always the challenge. It is never enough, but it requires the skillful allocation of the scars goods from economic management. The usual problem is the jurisdiction because the local government being the frontliner, the Mayor always want to be in charge.

The AFP teams that are deployed reports to the Mayor. They respect the supremacy of the Mayor in terms of the management of the emergency of the locality. They report and ask the Mayor. They have an incident command system. If the Mayor is the incident commander or disaster manager, that he has task, that’s when the coordination happen. They’re happy because the system is working for them and no confusion happens. It’s just that, It’s always the case of supplying the \_\_\_\_?

In Ulysses, a lot of people got caught up in the flood. They have ex-number?? of rescue teams from Local Government Unit, BFP, Military, Police, and Coast guards and these rescue teams are small compared to the sheer member of people requesting for rescue. A lot of people calling for help but they only have a small number of driver. People expect that if they call for rescue, it should be right away without knowing the challenge of the responder. For them, it’s always a race against time that people wanting to be have the kind of service that’s why their teams usually work around the clock and they have their relievers. It’s not just the teams that are located in Metro Manila who provide the service, but also the detachment of teams located in the nearby provinces (Cavite, Laguna, Rizal, Batangas, etc.) are also deployed to support the Metro Manila operations. Given the importance of Manila as the national capital of the country, the support teams has been arranged already.

For example, in the procedure in earthquake emergency in Metro Manila, there’s a projection that Manila will be isolated in a sense that it will have a road concern where in metro manila will be virtually separated into four earth quadrant, the North, South, East and West quadrants). They might have their own local government unit who will take care of themselves but given the magnitude of the emergency they can’t. It’s been arranged that other regions of the Philippines will come to the rescue of those affected quadrants. It is called Twinning. The quadrants has a twin region who will provide support with all assets and supplies that have been set aside and it will be delivered to Metro Manila using all available means of transportation.

If the area is susceptible to flooding and if there’s a risk of landslide, people are being evacuated immediately even the storm is still far away or even if the sun is still shining. The program of relocation continues. They also negotiate because some residents doesn’t want to be relocated because they’ve been living in that area all their life.

Engineering interventions are being applied to make sure that those areas are protected, to mitigate the risk of flooding. This is also an area which the AFP assist. The AFP engineering battalions regrades, they support the building of houses, shelters, post emergency, they also provide medical services in the evacuation centers in support to the local health officials especially during the time of pandemic. They also provide logistical support for the vaccines supply.

The civilians are supportive and cooperative in the operations of AFP because of the lesson learned in the previous disaster that they experienced like Yolanda and other super typhoons. People are complaining because they never experienced flooding in their area before caused by climate change and hydrometeorological disasters.

The AFP are supporting the disaster education programs. They bring information educational materials to the people especially to the country side. The philosophy of their disaster management system as well as their counter insurgency operations is whole of nation. Everything that would empower their civilian population is being down so that they will be cooperative and they can add more value to the system. If they are vulnerable, they tried to reduce the vulnerability by capacitating the population.

They have a lot of earthquake drills. These are also conducted in schools and in work. Office of the government also participate. Prior of the pandemic, there’s always a capability display in the testing of the plans and AFP is part of that.

In the National level, they have a simulation exercises at the Cabinet level to be able to check how the system work in case of an emergency. They do demonstration during the drills. There’s a scenario if Metro Manila got hit by 7.2 magnitude earthquake, it might disable the operation center of other building (communication), so what they have done is create an alternate command centers. For Metro Manila they have Air Force City in Mabalacat, Pampanga and in Fort Magsaysay in Nueva Ecija. For Cebu, they have a facility in Mactan. In Mindanao, they have in Cagayan de Oro City. If in case these facilities got disabled, they have teams in the AFP base in Air Force City and in Fort Magsaysay. What they did during that time when they inaugurated the facility, there was a display of demonstration of capability where in their air assets travelled from Metro Manila to Fort Magsaysay to simulate a time and motions study on how long it’s going to take for their officials to be air lifted from point A to B and the mobilization of supplies. For instance, in Nueva Ecija, to ensure communication between disaster managers even though the main facility has been disabled.

Communications and exercises are being done. How will there be an interplay between the dynamics between the civilian authorities and the military authorities in that emergency. They even had a civil military coordination trainings that seek to bridge the gap between the civilian authorities. The preeminent in this exercises is the supremacy of civilian authority and it is being highlighted, that’s why the mentality of the AFP during the exercises is they are there to support, not to take over the area unless it is necessary to do so but as long as the civilian authority remain actional and functional, the AFP will just do a support activities.