The Global CDMHA at USF is a disaster management, decision training and support nucleus with the capability to provide education, information management, collaborative research on natural and human made disaster mitigation - preventive strategies to lessen the impact of future disasters -, as well as assistance with subject matter experts in needed areas of concern.

The Global CDMHA at USF seeks to build partnerships and collaborations with nations, NGOs and other key public health and disaster management organizations and help increase operational readiness in order to meet the diverse humanitarian needs of a particular region.

The Global CDMHA at USF is dedicated to the transfer of new knowledge and appropriate technology through the university sector to improve preparedness and mitigation before an emergency as well as responsiveness during times of crisis.

**Announcements**

The Center for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Assistance (CDMHA), at the University of South Florida (USF), has officially changed its name to the Global Center for Disaster Management and Humanitarian Action (Global CDMHA). The change of word from "Assistance" to "Action" reflects a deliberate move from a reactive approach to the impact of natural and human made hazards on communities, towards a more pro-active approach with an emphasis on mitigation and preparedness verses response and recovery. The addition of the word "Global" reflects the reality that our activities have a global outlook as characteristics of natural and human made hazards are translational and know no frontiers.

**Research**

Fulfilling its commitment to enhance strategies to minimize the effects of disasters in vulnerable communities, the Global CDMHA at USF supports applied research that it considers will positively affect our capabilities to better prepare ourselves in the face of hazards.

This year, the Global CDMHA at USF will support the following projects:

**Project 1** - Assessment of Intestinal Parasite Infections in Civilian and Military Relief Workers Involved in Humanitarian Assistance Efforts

**Project 2** – The Pilot Testing and Validation of a Novel Spectroscopy Method for Rapid Diagnosis of Malaria and Dengue Fever
**Project 3** – Facilitating Hope in the Wake of Fear

**Project 4** – Rapid Organization Situation Assessment: A Prototype Implementation using a Flooding Alert Automated System Design

**Project 5** – Assessing the Impact of the AIDS Disaster on the island of Hispaniola: An Epidemiological Surveillance of At-risk Populations

**Project 6** – The Role of Organizational Culture in the Delivery of Humanitarian Aid

**Project 7** – Developing a Culture of Disaster Mitigation through Education: A K-12 Project in Vulnerable Communities of the Caribbean

**Project 8** – Humanitarian Response to Events of Weapons of Mass Destruction

**Project 9** – Disaster Management Infrastructure Development and/or Sustainment (DMIDS)

**Project 10** – Translational Research

**FA-HUM** – During the FA-HUM conference, disaster management personnel and military personnel from the United States and the Latin American and Caribbean region gather to discuss strategies related to better our collaborative efforts in dealing with natural and human made hazards and their impact on communities. Plans of action to implement those strategies are being drawn. Up to 23 countries are usually represented during this conference.

The next FA-HUM conference is scheduled to take place in Panama March 15-26, 2004.

**INTERHANDS** – This annual seminar is by invitation ONLY. It is an introductory five-day program designed to provide military and civilian members with basic information about disaster management and related issues with case studies focusing on Latin American and Caribbean regions. Participants of this program are better prepared to accomplish disaster relief and humanitarian assistance missions, in USSOUTHCOM's Area of Operation.

The next INTERHANDS Seminar is scheduled to take place in Miami May 3-7, 2004.

**Conferences**

**International and Inter-Organizational Conferences**

The Global CDMHA at USF supports the US Southern Command in the coordination and dissemination of disaster management information during international and inter-organizational conferences such as FA-HUM (Fuerzas Aliadas Humanitarias), and INTERHANDS (Interoperable Regional Humanitarian Assistance & Natural Disasters Seminars).

**Regional Conferences**

The Global CDMHA at USF also works with the US Southern Command during their regional seminars, which focus on disaster management issues targeted to the specific needs of the Caribbean and Latin American region. The host country for the seminars varies, depending on the region being focused on. The
regional seminars are: Southern Cone Regional Disaster Management Conference, CENTAM (Central America) Regional Disaster Management Conference, Caribbean Regional Disaster Management Conference, and the Andean Ridge Regional Disaster Management Conference.

**Andean Ridge DPS**
The next Andean Ridge conference is tentatively scheduled to take place in Quito, Ecuador, July 13-15, 2004.

**Training**

The Global CDMHA at USF is currently offering training in Disaster Management to members of the Venezuelan Civil Defense in the state of Carabobo as well as to the Fire Department in the state of Merida. The state of Aragua has recently requested that the Global CDMHA at USF offer the same training to their community and discussions are currently underway to plan for the extension of the program to this area of the country. The workshops currently offered have been made possible by funds provided by PAHO (Pan American Health Organization) and the Global-CDMHA. The courses, seminars, and workshops are being offered on site, and are on a train-the-trainer format. The objective of the program is to improve the abilities and skills of the participants in preparing their communities for disaster management and risk reduction. At the end of the program, participants will be able to prepare and deliver training to decision makers and others, in community planning and preparedness, based on risks currently faced in their community. The key to reduce the effects of natural disasters is to minimize their destructive impact. By developing stronger communities that are better prepared and less vulnerable to disasters, the extent of the potential damages will be dramatically reduced.

The Global CDMHA at USF has also been requested to provide a series of Digital Teleconferences in Disaster Management to the U.S. Embassy in Caracas, Venezuela. These are made possible by using the uplink equipment of the University of South Florida, where our Center is located. The technical assistance is being provided by the Professional Education Department, also located at USF.

There will be a series of five workshops. The U.S. Embassy will be inviting different groups of participants to the upcoming workshops based on the topics being discussed, and how these relate to each group’s interest. The schedule is as follows:

**November 25, 2003**

*An Emergency Operation Center; Its role in developing a task force and an Emergency Plan:* This workshop provided an overview of how an EOC works within the community to bring community leaders together to design and implement an Emergency Plan.

**February 17, 2004**

*Emergency/Disaster Recovery:* The content in this workshop is designed to introduce the audience to National and International basic concepts and operations of a disaster environment, especially in terms of major disaster incidents, and to broaden and enhance their understanding of
roles and responsibilities and their importance to the overall recovery effort. In addition to the national and international focus, the workshop will touch on the coordination and problem solving aspects of disaster operations.

March 16, 2004
Emergency Management & Disaster Planning for Business/Industry and Government: This workshop will examine emergency management planning concepts and organizations that develop emergency/disaster management operational response plans from the United States and International response agencies.

April 20, 2004
Terrorism Events: Preparedness and Counter Action Planning. This workshop will be an overview of what terrorism is and how it has become a key issue in today’s world. Issues on significant terrorist, guerilla, and insurgent groups will be covered, along with “Patriot” movement, right-wing militia groups, and hate groups both in the United States and globally.

May 2004
Overview of United States and International Emergency/Disaster Management: This workshop will provide a study of emergency/disaster management systems both in the United States and Internationally. The following areas are covered: tasks and responsibilities of the emergency/disaster management; politics; policymaking; and a comprehensive and integrated emergency management system.