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 Global CDMHA at USF has had a new web site since earlier this year. We invite you to visit us often at http://global-cdmha.usf.edu as updates on our current activities throughout the world are posted every other week.

Conferences

FAHUM ‘04

FAHUM stands for Fuerzas Aliadas Humanitaria. The Global CDMHA at USF provided support for FAHUM 2004, which took place March 12-26 in Panama.

The exercise provided during the conference gave participants an opportunity to exercise country disaster plans and incorporate governmental, non-governmental, military/civil defense and international agencies into their actions.

The exercise exposes participants to the latest developed scientific and technological resources in risk management and decision making. It also promotes a culture of risk management in educational programs and social communication. The Global CDMHA supported conference planners in three areas: 1- NGO/IO Coordination; 2- Simulation; and 3- After Action Review. The exercise allowed the countries from Central America and Caribbean region to operate as an Emergency Operation Center and put their policies and procedures into practice while organizing a humanitarian relief operation.
Participation in the FA-HUM '04 Exercise once again increased the recognition by regional NGOs and international organizations of the contributions to these issues by the Global CDMHA.

**INTERHANDS**

On May 3-7, 2004, the Interoperable Regional Humanitarian Assistance and Natural Disaster Seminar (INTERHANDS) took place in Miami, Florida.

The event is a joint venture between the Global CDMHA and the U.S. Southern Command to offer a five-day seminar to military and civilians on disaster management and case studies in Latin American and Caribbean disasters. Seminar speakers included experts from Latin American and Caribbean organizations, as well as U.S. government agencies. The first day of the seminar was open to top military executives. A full review of the day-by-day presentations along with the After Action Report (AAR) can be viewed from our website at [http://hsc.usf.edu/publichealth/cdmha/cdmha_forums_interhands_reports.html](http://hsc.usf.edu/publichealth/cdmha/cdmha_forums_interhands_reports.html).

**Andean Ridge**

The Global CDMHA provided support to the first workshop for the Third Annual Andean Ridge Conference on Disaster Preparedness in April.

The workshop provided an opportunity to learn how different Civil Defense Agencies from the Andean countries (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela) operate during a disaster situation, how they are structured and their role in risk management within the Andean Committee for Disaster Prevention and Assistance (CAPRADE). The mission of the conference is to unite the Andean Ridge countries to develop a regional response mechanism.

There was a second workshop in May and the conference itself took place in June 16-18, 2004, in Quito, Ecuador, for which the Global CDMHA participated as an observer with other international organizations and non-governmental organizations in the America’s.

The conference was attended by representatives from the Andean Ridge countries (Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela) to discuss and propose a Regional Plan known as the Andean Strategy for Disaster Prevention and Response. The proposal was accepted by all five countries with some modifications still pending. The meeting also provided an opportunity for member countries to review CAPRADE’s present and future activities in the region.

**Conference of the American Armies (CAA)**


The conference objective was to cover topics regarding Command and Control issues involved during Peace Keeping Operations and Disaster Relief Operations. Representatives from the Global CDMHA provided results on a survey given to country participants prior to attending the conference. The survey
collected information from the Armies in the Americas on their coordination and education in the area of Disaster Management, which allowed for further discussion on the topic and practical initiatives that may be taken into consideration as doctrine at the CAA Commanders Conference in November 2005.

An additional presentation “Risk Management in Latin America and the Caribbean” was made and a panel discussion on “Regional Military Organizations in support to Disaster Management” was moderated.

**Natural Hazard Workshop**

A member from the Global CDMHA attended the 29th Annual Workshop on Hazards Research and Applications, which was held in Boulder, Colorado on July 11-14.

Since 1975, the Natural Hazards Research and Applications Information Center from the University of Colorado has hosted an annual, invitational Hazards Research and Applications Workshop involving over 400 federal, state, and local emergency officials; representatives of nonprofit, humanitarian organizations; hazards researchers; disaster planners for private industry; and a host of other persons dedicated to alleviating the pain and loss inflicted by disasters.

The session summaries can be seen on the Hazard Center’s web site at [http://www.colorado.edu/hazards/workshop/](http://www.colorado.edu/hazards/workshop/).

### Training

**Venezuela**

Training workshops on various aspects of Disaster Management (see detailed workshops summaries in the January 2004 Newsletter) continued to be offered by the Global CDMHA staff at the request of U.S. Embassy in Caracas, Venezuela and the College of Medical Sciences from the University of Carabobo, in Valencia, Venezuela.

The workshops offered in the spring of 2004 via Digital Teleconference benefited emergency personnel from two cities in Venezuela, Mérida and Valencia. The training introduced participants to early warning systems and new techniques in Planning and Preparedness when responding to disasters (See our January 2004 Newsletter for titles & abstract of workshops).

Unfortunately, some of the workshops had to be postponed for two months due to the political instability in Venezuela that made it difficult for local Civil Defense and other participants to attend the sessions. The workshops resumed in June 2004.

**Bahamas**

Global CDMHA staff members with the “Disaster Management Infrastructure Development and/or Sustainment (DMIDS)” project provided disaster training workshops throughout the month of February in Nassau, Bahamas.

The workshops were conducted to assist the Bahamas National Emergency Management Agency.
(NEMA) in the comprehensive disaster management planning process. Our team provided training and guidance to assist NEMA and the National Disaster Committee with identifying and selecting the appropriate lead and support agencies for the Emergency Support Function (ESF) component of their National Disaster Plan.

A draft for the National Disaster Plan was presented to the Prime Minister and Cabinet. The plan is still currently under review by cabinet and local government officials. Although the plan has not been officially approved yet, U.S. SouthCom has provided NEMA with $600,000 for construction of a new National Emergency Operations Center (EOC). The Bahamian Government has agreed to provide matching funds to NEMA. Construction on the new facility should begin in fall of 2004.

Additional, the Global CDMHA provided material for the First Annual Hurricane Awareness Week held in Nassau, Bahamas from May 24-28. The objective of the five-day event was to educate the public on the role of NEMA as well as provide information on hurricane preparedness / mitigation. Participants included National Ministries, Disaster Committee Members, as well as regional organizations such as CDERA, OFDA, PAHO, and the Global CDMHA.

Global CDMHA representatives will be in the Bahamas during the second week of August to provide Emergency Management and EOC training as well as present at a 2-day conference. The conference being held in Nassau is supported by U.S. SouthCom, Global CDMHA and NEMA. The purpose of the conference is to present the National Disaster Plan to the representatives of the Family Islands. Conference participants will provide feedback on the plan and present their local emergency needs. Consensus from the meeting is expected to be reflected in the final version of the National Emergency.

**Operational Readiness**

The Global CDMHA was offered the opportunity to partner with the Defense Military Readiness Institute in offering the first course in Homeland Security for Medical Executives to have both civilian and uniformed faculty and students.

The Inaugural Homeland Security Medical Executive Course was jointly sponsored by the University of South Florida (USF) Colleges of Medicine and Public Health and the Defense Medical Readiness Training Institute (DMRTI). It took place June 21-25, 2004 in Austin, TX. Faculty and participants for this course included civilian executive medical managers and senior medical commissioned officers.

Three of the main objectives for the course were:


2) Present the development of Homeland Security medical readiness and responses to meet the challenges and complexities of a terrorist attack, major disaster or other emergency in the United States or its territories.
3) Research, modify and implement a joint agency health care support plan for a CBRNE (Chemical, Biological, Radioactive, Nuclear and Explosives) or natural disaster.

This course consisted of didactic lectures that were reinforced by a joint interagency healthcare support practical exercise involving a time-lined scenario in which participants were tasked to provide assistance to conduct consequence management operations. Participants had the opportunity to develop core competencies in incident management and foster the development of the relationships necessary to maximize the synergies achievable through interagency collaboration.

Continuing Professional Education credit was given to the following categories: Medical (37.5 hrs.); Nursing; Social Work; Occupational Therapy; Physical Therapy; Pharmacy; Psychology; Certified health Education Specialist; Certified Addiction Professional; Registered Dietician; American Association of Medical Administrators; and, American College of Health Educators.