

Communications Update

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Institute for Water Resources

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IWR Geographer Provides Support to Disaster Preparedness

ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA. USACE IWR Geographer Justin Pummell is assigned to U.S. Army Pacific (USARPAC) and acts as a liaison between USARPAC, USACE Pacific Ocean Division (POD) and IWR. He is responsible for USACE's International Capacity Development Program in the U.S. Army Pacific Command (USPACOM) area of responsibility. As part of IWR's International Capacity Development Program, he works directly with the USARPAC, USPACOM, U.S. Embassies and partner nations. He provides theater security cooperation support, geographic information system (GIS) technical expertise and disaster management planning to USARPAC, USPACOM and POD.

Mr. Pummell recently assisted with the third annual Pacific Resilience Disaster Response Exercise and Exchange (DREE) 2012 in Dhaka, Bangladesh, sponsored by U.S. Army Pacific and the Bangladesh Armed Forces Division. Part of the larger Pacific Resilience initiative throughout the Pacific, the DREE aims to increase disaster preparedness and response through civil-military cooperation in those nations most affected by natural disasters in the Pacific region. Mr. Pummell regularly develops, leads, plans and executes Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Management projects and exercises such as this one for USACE.

"The Corps is involved in Pacific Resilience because of our experience, capability, and capacity," said Mr. Pummell. "We can reach back to subject matter experts of all types and use their knowledge and skill sets to support joint emergency management practices. Given our domestic experience in support of the National Response Framework, our real-world practice with debris management, engineering, and other disaster lifecycle tasks is desirable and critical."

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