



HIU Highlights Report No.7: **Dec. 1, 2004 – Jan. 31, 2005**

The Humanitarian Information Unit serves as a USG interagency center to identify, collect, analyze, and disseminate unclassified information in preparation for and response to complex emergencies worldwide, and to promote best practices for humanitarian information management

This report describes select initiatives underway, recent collaborations, key meetings, and upcoming items of interest.

Status of Select Initiatives:

Indian Ocean Tsunami

(a) Tsunami Humanitarian Information Sharing (THIS) Working Group:

State cable 2707, 6 January 2005, designated the HIU as the coordinator for the Tsunami Humanitarian Information Sharing (THIS) Working Group. This group was established to facilitate the management of interagency geospatial information and to coordinate support for field needs related to tsunami relief efforts. State cable 8983, 14 January 2005, identified the Pacific Disaster Center's web site ([HTTP://WWW.PDC.ORG/TSUNAMI](http://www.pdc.org/tsunami)) as the primary repository for USG-purchased commercial imagery of the affected areas. Host country governments, international organizations, and NGO partners all were granted access to data hosted on this site. The THIS Working Group determined that Indonesia's heavily damaged Aceh Province should be the focus of its initial efforts and expedited the provision of digital data from the National Geo-spatial Intelligence Agency (NGA) and USGS/EROS Data Center to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and UNOSAT (UN Office of Satellite Technology). INR/GGI/GIU produced a digital map atlas of the Aceh region and provided it to field elements operating in Indonesia, including the UN's Humanitarian Information Center (HIC) that was set up in northern Sumatra. (POC: Alan Davis)

(b) Indian Ocean Tsunami eRoom:

The HIU created an Indian Ocean Tsunami eRoom, an inter-agency collaborative tool that hosted a network for capturing, organizing and sharing information on the disaster. Over eighty invited participants representing the State Department, USAID, USGS, NASA, US Army Corps on Engineers, DOD/PACOM, 96th Civil Affairs units, and other agencies can access and add files to this common web-based workspace. The eRoom includes a calendar; contacts directory; GIS databases; repositories of analyses, maps, and satellite imagery; links to related websites; and provides a forum for requesting data and exchanging information.

The Tsunami eRoom has become an important platform for sharing information among THIS Working Group members. Four “Communities of Interest” (COIs) were established under THIS and linked to the Tsunami eRoom. COIs function as virtual communities to address issues, requests, and problems and to discuss new ideas related to a specific theme or expertise area. If you would like an invitation to the Tsunami eRoom, please contact Dennis King at kingdj2@state.gov.

THIS Working Group Communities of Interest and contacts:

--**Remote Sensing and Satellite Imagery:** Carol Christian, DoS, christianCA@state.gov

--**GIS Mapping:** Tiffany Hill, DoS, hilltl2@state.gov

--**Interagency Information Sharing and Collaboration Tools:** Dennis King, kingdj2@state.gov or COL Doug Nash, nashde@state.gov

--**Science and Early Warning:** POC: Pete Chirico, USGS, pchirico@usgs.gov



c) Common Operating Picture (COP) Maps:

The HIU created a series of multi-thematic “Common Operating Picture” maps of northern Sumatra. COP maps present a snapshot assessment of different sectors affected by the tsunami via displays of geo-spatial, tabular, and temporal information. COP 1, on the right, focuses on the human impact of the tsunami, relief constraints and early USG deployments. COP 2, on the



left, provides information on displaced populations and health. The HIU produced two additional COP maps assessing the tsunami’s economic impact, infrastructure damage, and USG-furnished commodities and technical assistance. All these maps are available on the HIU website (see logon details on page 5) or via the Indian Ocean Tsunami eRoom (POCs: Dennis King and David Springer).

d) Support to the Humanitarian Information Center in Sumatra:

Kathleen Miner, HIU senior geospatial analyst, was seconded to UN/OCHA for two months to establish its new HIC located in Banda Aceh. HICs produce maps, provide advice on survey design and implementation, and help organizations systematically collect data that can be shared with the broader humanitarian community. Besides providing support for emergency relief efforts, the Sumatra HIC is also developing a data infrastructure that will become a valuable future resource for the people of Aceh as they rebuild their devastated province. HICs operate in coordination with a number of regional partners, including the UN Joint Logistics Cell and USAID’s Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA). The Sumatra HIC website is: www.humanitarianinfo.org/sumatra/.

World Conference on Disaster Reduction

Dr. Melba Crawford, HIU science advisor, was a member of the USG delegation to the January 18-22 World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR), held in Kobe, Japan, to commemorate the tenth year anniversary of the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake. Originating from the 2002 Johannesburg Summit on Sustainable Development, the conference was designed around a common theme of building resilience to natural disasters. The tragic effects of the December earthquake and tsunami in the Indian Ocean focused much of the attention of the conference participants on discussing ways to prevent such tragedies from recurring. The conference provided a preliminary forum for a discussion of a global multi-hazard early warning system, in addition to the adoption of longer term, broad-based strategic goals focused on disaster risk reduction. (POC: Melba Crawford)

Exercise Terminal Fury 2005

HIU team member Colonel Doug Nash on December 7-9, 2004 participated in the US Pacific Command's (PACOM) Annual Capstone Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff *Exercise Terminal Fury 05*. This exercise was designed in support of the full-spectrum Joint Interagency Coordinating Group (JIACG). The JIACG is a joint DoD-DoS-USAID initiative to better integrate all instruments of national power into theatre-level strategy. HIU and other USG interagency partners were able to utilize the collaborative tool Info Work Station (IWS) to participate remotely from Washington DC with the JIACG and PACOM's Headquarters (located in Hawaii). The HIU produced GIS map products that depicted the USG Interagency Common Operating Picture, which was part of the live exercise carried out using IWS. The exercise highlighted the importance of applying best practices standards for the collection, sharing, and use of humanitarian data and information. (POC: Doug Nash)

CDC's Consultation on Global Disease Detection

On December 8-9, 2004, HIU team member Dr. Deborah Belsky participated in the CDC's Consultation on Global Disease Detection (GDD) in Miami, Florida. This event brought together a variety of health experts, including business leaders, cooperating government health ministry officials, academics, and USG and UN experts to discuss ideas in accordance with CDC's Congressional mandate for global disease detection, specifically infectious diseases. (POC: Deborah Belsky)

Participation in Military Operations Research Society Conference

HIU staff, from November 30-December 2, 2004, participated in a seminar on analysis of political instability and crisis, as part of a symposium on The Global War on Terrorism: Analytic Support, Tools and Metrics of Assessment, held at the US Naval War College in Newport, Rhode Island. During the proceedings of this DoD-sponsored symposium, Dennis King provided perspectives on humanitarian emergencies and their effect on political instability. (POC: Dennis King)

HIU Website

As mentioned in the last Highlights Report, the HIU website is now operational. HIU partners are encouraged to log on and spread the word to their colleagues. The latest addition is a Tsunami information links page, which is a comprehensive list of websites that contain data, products, and news in relation to the Tsunami crisis. (POC:Tiffany Hill)

The URL, user name and password are:

<http://hiu.state.gov>

User name: User12

Password: password

Other Items of Interest:

On 26 January, DAS Jeb Nadaner, Chief for Stability Operations, ASD Stability Operations and Low Intensity Conflict (SOLIC) and several of his staff visited the HIU. They were briefed on the HIU mission, core competencies and initiatives. The new HIU website and collaborative tools currently in use were demonstrated.

HIU Welcomes New Staffers

Lewis McCulloch, Presidential Management Fellow: Mr. McCulloch joined the Humanitarian Information Unit in December 2004 for a six-month Presidential Management Fellowship rotation. Most recently, Mr. McCulloch worked at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Satellites and Information Service, where he served as a Management and Program Analyst. While at the HIU, Mr. McCulloch will work on a variety of activities including the Populations at Risk Information Project.

Heather Phelps, GIS Database Administrator: Ms. Phelps serves the HIU as its GIS Administrator for the Unit's geographic database and website applications. She is involved in initiatives to organize and document the varied data sources the HIU receives and to set up a mapping website for dissemination of these data to partners. In addition, she provides GIS analysis and mapping support as needed.

Upcoming HIU Executive Steering Committee (ESC) Meeting:

The next ESC meeting (invitation only) is scheduled for 10:00 AM on Thursday, February 17th, 2005 at the HIU. HIU welcomes Jed Meline (NSC), John Kelmelis (USGS), Jeb Nadaner (ASD/SOLIC), and Brian Fila (ASD/NII) as new members of the HIU Executive Steering Committee.

HIU Contact Information:

Humanitarian Information Unit
Department of State
SA-44 Room 602
301 – 4th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20547
(Office Fax: 202-203-7790)
HIU_info@state.gov
<http://hiu.state.gov>

HIU Direct Telephone Lines & Agency Affiliation:

Alan L. Davis, Director (USAID):	202-203-7771	Cynthia Dial (DoS secretary):	202-203-7778
Fred Smith, Deputy (DoS):	202-203-7783	David Springer (NGA):	202-203-7789
Col. Doug Nash (DoD):	202-203-7779	Victoria Jabara(STG contract)	202-203-7784
Dennis King (DoS):	202-203-7782	Deborah Belsky (DoS):	202-203-7776
Melba Crawford (DoS):	202-663-0032	David Dodson (DoS):	202-203-7910
Kathleen Miner (USAID contract):	202-203-7780	Lewis McCulloch (NOAA):	202-203-7773
Tiffany Hill (STG contract):	202-203-7791	Heather Phelps (STG contract)	202-203-7787