

Background Information

On November 7, 2013 Super Typhoon Haiyan struck central Philippines devastating an entire way of life. Residents were left struggling in the wake of the largest tropical cyclone ever recorded.



Figure1: Super Typhoon Haiyan aerial view (photo courtesy: National Geographic)

Killing nearly 6,000 people, the Philippines continue to struggle with the everyday task of moving forward and rebuilding a life they

have lost. With 11 million persons displaced by the super

typhoon, the international response has been immediate as well as immense. Organizations from around the world have sent in first responders to accompany the aid from various governments, attempting to assist those who have been affected most by the super typhoon.

TIDES' Response

In support of helping those affected, TIDES has focused support in four main areas: equipment, communications, coordination, and documentation/Joint Professional Military Education (JPME). Leveraging the global STAR-TIDES Network, a public-private, whole of government, trans-national approach, tapped into the network for support. As a disaster that garnered international attention, response was swift and TIDES was able to work with various partners to formulate appropriate responses.

Partner Support

Throughout the response, TIDES has been working with various partners to ensure that the affected people received the aid they needed.

EQUIPMENT:

- SOUTHCOM offered to send 5 Aspen water filtration units from their stocks to WESTPAC.
- OSD funded the direct shipment of 3 MiDAS (Miniature Deployable Assistance System) systems.
- TIDES is working with several members of STAR-TIDES to link them to US Government assets and available resources on the ground, including a disaster response network in Japan and a ground-based reconnaissance group.
- TIDES linked up Toilets for People with Rocket IT-Cargo to provide Green Empowerment with 500 compost toilets.

COMMUNICATIONS:

- TIDES linked members of telemedicine and rapidly deployable network organizations with PACOM to provide cellphone network capabilities.
- TIDES linked NetHope to a STAR-TIDES member to help meet their IT and power needs.
- Brian Steckler (Naval Postgraduate School) is on the ground in the Philippines refining ideas for his concept, Rapid Technology Assessment Team (RTAT) through onsite testing and utilizing the STAR-TIDES Network to engage other members.
- MarkLogic volunteered one year of free access to their server capabilities.
- MEDWEB is working with a collaboration of several companies to get Drop In Cellular coverage to remote areas of the Philippines.
- Solar Stik is providing MEDWEB with a portable solar power solution for several of the Drop In Cellular networks and Japanese Resilience volunteered to pay for shipping.

COORDINATION:

- TIDES linked STAR-TIDES members with OpenStreetMap to update geographic information already being used by the Red Cross and the United Nations.
- TIDES linked STAR-TIDES members with Rapid Response Consulting, a Google Plus web community group that has maps, sit-reps, status updates, important tweets, government links and current and future forecasts that link to international data.



Figure 2: Creative cries for help (photo courtesy: Daily Mail)

DOCUMENTATION/JPME:

- The STAR-TIDES website is updating key papers, news, current imagery and reports for the typhoon and disaster response.
- TIDES hopes to incorporate lessons learned from Super Typhoon Haiyan into NDU research, publications, policy recommendations and JPME support.
- TIDES provided information for US Government services to support as a reference point to donate, learn, and provide information to US Government agencies and NGO's critical to the larger US effort.