

TACRU

Description:

Last August 2, 2000, the Tacloban City Rescue Unit publicly known as TACRU, was put into service with the mission of providing immediate medical and emergency care to the constituents of Tacloban City, reduce casualties during disaster and cultivate the culture of resilience among Taclobanons. Organized under the City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (CDRRMO), TACRU is manned by trained staff and Nurses and equipped with Ambulance, High Angle Equipment and Trauma Kits, among others. The office is located inside the City Agriculture Office compound and equipped with a Training Center. Currently, it has an organized 16 Barangay Emergency Response Teams through the help of the United Nations Development Project (UNDP).

TACRU responds to different call-outs such as minor accidents, vehicular accidents, ambulance transport and referrals (health related), urban flooding, collapsed structure, crime-related and medico-legal cases, hostage-taking assistance, suicidal cases, Search and Rescue (SAR) operations, evacuation and recovery, fire response and rescue. Moreover, TACRU is actively involved in medical missions and information drives within the City proper, suburbs and inclusive barangays. It also heeds to calls on all forms of SAR, either direct or as an augmentation effort at both regional and national levels.

The Tacloban City Rescue Unit (TACRU) is a recipient of the 2016 **Gawad KALASAG (Kalamidad at Sakuna LAbanan SARiling Galing ang Kaligtasan) Award** as conferred by the Regional Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (RDRRMC) Office of Civil Defense (OCD). Moreover, TACRU won the Best Government Emergency Response Management Award under the Urban Category, besting other cities in the Region.

Implementation

The TACRU's objectives is based on the acronym R.O.C.K.S. which stands for: **R - Responsiveness** – to effectively respond to all forms of call-outs with the necessary administrative as well as operational appetencies conforming to the requirements of Search and Rescue Management and the Incident Command System; **O – Organization** – to strop a very good intra-structure with eruditions of and how to conceptualize plans and tactics; **C – Competencies** – to cultivate among the community constituents, peer teams, private organizations, non-government organizations, and other agencies a lofty sense of commitment and cooperation in furthering formidable preventive and mitigating programs for Crises, Disasters, Emergencies & Failures (CDEF); **K – Knowledge** – to facilitate a wider breadth in the training of SAR operators to fully comprehend the broader spectrum of task in search and rescue, recovery and rehabilitation; and **S – Skills** – to enhance the abilities and the capabilities of all SAR volunteers down to the barangay level.

Strategies

In order to meet these objectives, the following strategies are being employed by TACRU, viz:

1. Ensure presence of standby medics on 24/7 duty;
2. Assist and conduct training on Basic Life Support and First Aid, Water Search and Rescue, Mountain Search and Rescue and High Angle Rescue Technique;
3. Initiate and participate on regular emergency response drills for:
 - a. Government offices and agencies within the City of Tacloban, private companies, non-government organizations and schools;
 - b. Private establishments; and
 - c. Barangays;
4. Organize and train volunteers of first responders in the barangay level (Barangay Emergency

- Response Team – BERT);
5. Coordinate with schools, colleges and universities for the integration of DRRM into their NSTP curriculum;
 6. Organize and conduct blood-letting activities; and
 7. Participate in other socio-civic activities like tree planting, clean-up drive, mangrove planting and medical missions.

Results

Covering the operational period of CY 2016, TACRU was able to respond to the following emergencies: 565 Medical Emergencies, 395 Vehicular Accidents, 105 request for Medical Transport, 62 requests for Medical Assistance, 5 Hacking/Stabbing Incidents, 7 Shooting Incidents, 4 Mauling Incidents and 7 Fire Calls.

Likewise, TACRU spearheaded in the conduct of the following activities: training and workshops on Standard First Aid and Basic Life Supports for the Barangay Emergency Response Team of Tacloban City, ERTs of Guiuan and Salcedo Eastern Samar, Leyte Council Scout House, Army reservist of Baybay Leyte, DepEd Personnel of Tabango Leyte and the employees of the Legislative office of Tacloban City.

Other trainings conducted by TACRU included: Mountain and Water Search and rescue with the ERTs of Eastern, Samar as participants, Philippine Army Reservist of Ormoc City and DPWH R8 Employees.

With the afore-mentioned trainings and workshops conducted it is noteworthy to highlight that one of its recipient LGUs was conferred with the Regional Kalasag Award last October 14, 2016 under the 1st to 3rd class municipality category, that of the Municipality of Salcedo, Eastern Samar in recognition for its exemplary performance in terms of disaster operations.

Aside from the conduct of trainings and workshops, TACRU is also involved in Socio-Civic Activities such as Tree and Mangroves Planting, Clean Up Drive, Blood Letting and Brigada Eskwela.

Moreover, TACRU also has standby medics that provide medical assistance during emergencies and working 24/7.

Recognizing the skills and knowledge of the TACRU personnel, they are often tapped by the City Government in Barangayan activities to discuss and/or orient the locale on emergency response and are requested to assist in the conduct of Medical Missions.

With these accomplishments, the City Government gives due importance to the roles and functions of TACRU thus, the significant increase in its budget allocation for CY 2016

Specifically, on Medical Supplies, there were no allocation in CY 2015 but funding support for this in CY 2016 was allocated in the amount of Php 31,045.00 and Php 100,000.00 in CY 2017. On Telephone/Internet, the unit also had no budget in CY 2015 but funds was allocated for this in CY 2016 in the amount of Php 10,235.67 and Php 20,000 in CY 2017. Meanwhile, on training expenses, the unit was allocated with the budget Php 34,000.00 last CY 2015 which increased to Php 49,000.00 in CY 2016. Further, the budget for this increased in CY 2017 amounting to Php 200,000.00 As to Salaries and Wages, and Gasoline, Oil and Lubricants, the amount allocated in CY 2015 and 2016 remains the same at Php

343,200.00 and Php 144,000.00, respectively. In CY 2017 however, a significant increase in the amount of Salaries and Wages can be observed at Php 1,235,520.00 while the Gasoline, Oil and Lubricants and Php 150,000.00, respectively.

