

DDGM Participates in Typhoon Exercise “PAKYO” 2010

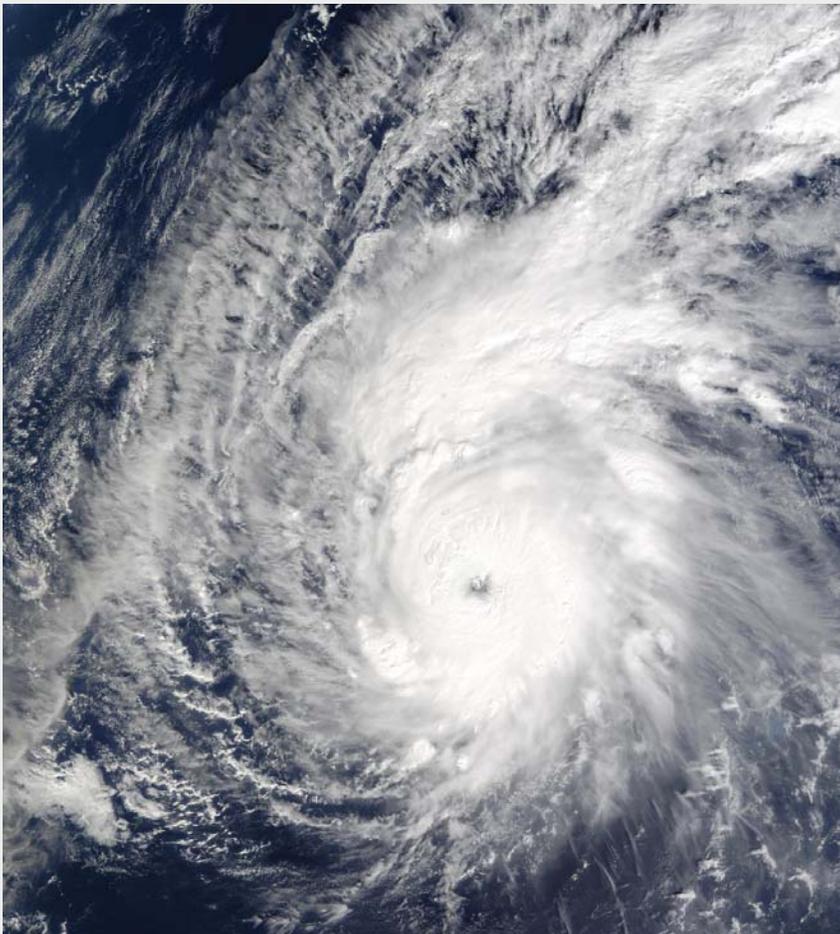
By Randall Rodrigues and Dave Palomo, DDGM

The Pacific Northwest is one of the most prone areas for tropical cyclone activity in the world. Defense Distribution Depot Guam, Marianas is located within this tropical belt, where the possibility of a typhoon is real. In addition to the threat of typhoons, Guam is also located in a seismically active region of the Pacific with a history of severe earthquakes. Because of this history, natural disaster planning is a high priority for the island.

This year’s natural disaster planning recently kicked off for DDGM during the Initial Planning Conference, or IPC, for Naval Base Guam, or NBG, typhoon exercise, PAKYO 2010.

“Participation in this event helps to improve DDGM’s readiness and preparedness, and to evaluate the effectiveness of DDGM’s Emergency Response Plan, in the case of a natural disaster,” said United States Marine Corps Lt. Col. Ly Fecteau, DDGM commander.

PAKYO 2010 includes DDGM, all other NBG tenant commands, NBG Base Operating Services Contractor, the government of Guam (police, fire, homeland security, and customs), the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the U.S. Coast Guard, and the U.S. Air Force.



Typhoon Ponsona, which hit Guam in Dec. 2005.

PAKYO 2010 is divided into six planning stages, including the IPC, mid-planning, final planning, table-top exercises, crisis action planning, and the typhoon PAKYO exercise. Participation will facilitate the exchange of knowledge and experiences between agencies and activities, help to share lessons learned, and help to plan for a simulated disaster.

Through their participation, DDGM will demonstrate its inter-agency disaster coordination and communication capabilities.

“The readiness scenario provides a special opportunity to test DDGM’s disaster preparedness and recovery procedures, and to assess and report personnel and property accountability procedures,” said Fecteau.

“Typhoon” is a regionally-specific term for a tropical cyclone that forms in the Pacific Northwest. A hurricane is equivalent to a typhoon, but occurring in the Northeast Pacific Ocean, east of the international dateline. Typhoon season, which runs from late June through December, produces an annual average of 13-18 named storms.