TTVI Operations, Thailand

Disaster Victim Identification Response to Thailand following the Indian Ocean Tsunami of 26 December 2004

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Overview

• Brief Background
• Current Status
• Critical Issues
Background

Early Operations

- 26 Dec: Thai DVI teams commence operations in Krabi, Phuket, Phang Nga provinces.
- 27 Dec: International DVI teams begin arriving, un-coordinated effort.
- 30 Dec: International DVI Co-ordination Centre established RTP HQ Phuket.
- Temporary mortuary facilities established at 4 sites across 3 provinces
- Complex operating environment
- Dual approach “Thai” and “Non-Thai”
- Efforts to establish a fully integrated response
- 12 Jan: TTVI Established
- Implementation of latest technologies to enable reconciliation of AM/PM records at TTVI IMC, Phuket.
TTVI Mission

• To identify victims of the Thai tsunami and release these identified deceased for repatriation to their families in accordance with the Thai law, Interpol DVI Guidelines and TTVI Protocols.
Operational Structure

- Command of International Operations integrated into Thai operations
- Coordination of International Operations achieved through negotiation
- Joint Chiefs of staff roles established
- Executive Committee and sub-committees established
- In excess of 400 personnel from 30 countries (not including the Thai response)
**COMMAND STRUCTURE**

Prime Minister of Thailand  
(Thaksin)

Minister of Interior  
(Police Gen Chidchai)

DVI Commander  
Police General NOPADOL  
Royal Thai Police

TTVI Executive Committee

Joint Chiefs of Staff  
- Australia  
- Thailand  
Deputy Joint Chief of Staff

Thai Tsunami Victim Identification - Information Management Centre

Royal Thai Police Disaster Victim Identification Board
TTVI COMMITTEE STRUCTURE

DVI Commander
General NOPADOL

Joint Chiefs of Staff
• Thailand
• Australia / Norway

Deputy Joint Chief of Staff
• Scandinavia

TTVI Executive Committee
• Chair (UK)
• Secretariat (Interpol)
• Joint Chiefs of Staff (Thailand, Norway & Australia)
• Deputy Joint Chief of Staff (Nordic Countries)
• DVI Commander Site 1 (Thailand)
• DVI Commander Site 2 (Sweden)
• TTVI Property Co-ordinator (Germany)
• TTVI Committee Representatives (Italy, France, Netherlands, Asia & Canada)
• Police Liaison Representative (Rotated Weekly)
• TTVI-IMC Commander (UK)
• TTVI Press & Public Relations Officers (UK)

Chair and Secretariat: TTVI Committee
• DVI Commander
• Police Liaison Officers
• Commander TTVI-IMC

Scientific Advisory Sub-Committee

Property Advisory Sub-Committee

19th April 2005
Background

TTVI Operations

- Command & Administration
- Field Operations (Mortuary & Body Release)
- Information Management Centre (IMC)
- Property Operations
- Total number of staff in excess of 250
Current Field Operations

• Field Operations:
  – Site 1A: Wat Yan Yao, Takua Pa.
    Operations suspended, 566 deceased to be transferred to Site 2 for FIP and returned to Site 1C Bung Maruan when complete.
  – Site 1B: Bang Muang.
    Site closed all deceased relocated to Site 2.
  – Site 1C: Bang Maruan
    Site under construction, to include storage for all deceased in Phang Nga Province.
  – Site 2: Mai Kao Cemetery, Phuket.
    (1723 deceased), Final Inventory Protocol being conducted with over 1300 complete.
  – Site 3: Krabi
    Site closed all deceased relocated to Site 2

• Total Deceased currently in TTVI process 2289
Current Status

- As at 3rd May 2005, TTVI Operations had identified over 1400 deceased persons, most of whom have now been repatriated to over 34 nations.
- There are more than 2200 unidentified victims still to be reconciled by the TTVI process.
Strategic Outputs

- Effective response to a humanitarian mission
- Relationship building between representatives from all nations
- Exchange of technical skills and experience
- Enhancement of International mass fatality response capability
- DVI Capacity Building Opportunity for the Region.
Critical Issues

DNA Profiling of Post Mortem Samples:

- Significant difficulties experienced in obtaining full DNA profiles, RTP now funding ICMP to complete DNA profiling of remaining PM samples

1. Domestic Labs
   - Siriraj Hospital, Mahidol University
   - Rama Hospital, Mahidol University
   - Chiangmai University
   - Forensic Institute, Royal Thai Police
   - Central Institute of Forensic Sciences
     Ministry of Justice

2. International Labs
   - Beijing Genomic Institute, China
   - National Board of Forensic Medicine, Sweden
   - Forensic Alliance, United Kingdom
   - International Commission for Missing Persons
     Bosnia and Herzegovina
Critical Issues

• **DNA Matching Services and Systems**
  - Gene Codes Forensics Inc., M-FI Sys system.
  - Seeking technical assistance from foreign nations to support implementation of M-FI Sys.
  - Thai laboratories already generated over 300 potential matches to be utilised in conjunction with supporting evidence.
Critical Issues

TTVI Operations Fund

- To date the funding to maintain TTVI Operations has been provided through contributions of individual nations.
- Whilst this approach was appropriate for initial crisis management there is an urgent need to establish an Operational Fund to sustain ongoing operational human and financial resources.
Critical Issues

• Final Inventory Protocol
  - Data validation and QC process.
  - Final check of deceased and confirmation of data relating to deceased ➔ sealing of body bag.
  - Final Reference DNA sample.
  - Implemented at Site 2, with over 1300 deceased completed.