

## Comprehensive Disaster Management Drill 2007

On September 1, Disaster Preparedness Day, a comprehensive disaster management drill was conducted by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government and five municipalities in the Tama area: Akishima, Fussa, Musashimurayama, Hamura (cities) and Mizuho (town).

Aimed at making the necessary preparations to accept support teams from overseas, this drill saw the participation of a rescue team from Taipei, the participating city to the “Network for Crisis Management” of the Asian Network of Major Cities 21. This rescue team from Taipei employed rescue dogs to retrieve injured people from collapsed houses at the main drill venue.



Rescue dogs from Taipei at work at collapse site

The drill achieved the following.

The focus of this drill was on responding to an urban disaster, entailing such activities as rescuing people trapped in elevators and arranging transport for “daytime residents” facing difficulties in returning to their homes. “Coordination” was the keyword, and as well as five participating municipalities, numerous members of US Forces in Japan, representatives from Taipei, medical personnel and neighborhood community associations took part in the exercise.

The scenario for the drill was an earthquake of magnitude 7.3 originating directly below Tama in the Tokyo area at 7:15 a.m. Immediately after the earthquake struck, workers living in disaster management housing around the metropolitan offices in Tokyo assembled at the metropolitan offices, while

Tachikawa disaster management housing workers gathered at the Tachikawa Disaster Management Center.

By 7:45 a.m., the Tokyo Disaster Management Headquarters had been established and a request submitted to the Self-Defense Force that it begin preparations to deploy to the northern Tama region, where major damage was anticipated.

Governor Ishihara as Headquarters Director as well as bureau chiefs and police, fire and Self-Defense Force officials assembled in the Disaster Management Center on the 9th floor of the Main Building of the Tokyo Metropolitan Office to conduct a disaster management discussion simulation.



Envisioning “daytime residents” from Kanagawa and Chiba having difficulties returning home, persons role-playing these “residents” were brought together at Kasai Seaside Park and transported to Yokosuka Port aboard the US Navy dock landing ship *USS Tortuga*. This marks the second time (the first time being last year) that units from US Forces in Japan have participated in the disaster management drill. A

wide-area medical transport exercise was conducted at Yokota Base, with injured persons evacuated by US military helicopters.

In Hamura City, a triage disaster medical drill was held. Triage involves prioritizing the transport and treatment of patients in accordance with the seriousness of their injuries/illnesses in order to provide the best treatment for as many injured and sick as possible with limited medical staff, medical supplies, and other medical resources. Approximately 100 medical personnel participated in this drill, taking the appropriate measures.



Quick descent by rope from 3rd floor stairwell

At the main venue, a drill was conducted in the commercial facilities next to the train station based on a scenario of elevators stopped with people trapped inside. Officers from the Metropolitan Police's mobile units descended by rope from the 3rd floor stairwell to the 2nd floor and promptly rescued the passengers.



Rescuing persons from a vehicle that had plunged down the side of a collapsed roadway