



Defense Security Cooperation Agency
NEWS RELEASE

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DoD Humanitarian Assistance Leads Tsunami Relief Effort

Within hours after a devastating tsunami destroyed coastal areas of Asia and Africa on 26 December 2004, DoD [Overseas Humanitarian Disaster and Civic Aid \(OHDACA\)](#) funding began flowing to the Pacific Command (PACOM) to respond to this disaster. OHDACA funds, managed by DSCA's [Humanitarian Assistance and Mine Action \(HAMA\)](#) directorate, were among the first funds available to pay for air transportation and other relief activities in stricken parts of Southeast Asia. Working closely with PACOM staff, DSCA authorized \$1.2 million the day after the tsunami hit and continues to provide funding during the initial stages of the relief operation.

In addition to managing OHDACA and other funding sources to help sustain military efforts in the area, DSCA coordinated with PACOM to ship [Humanitarian Daily Rations](#) and continues to coordinate providing other relief supplies to the region.

DSCA's HAMA programs support foreign policy and national security interests of regional stability, promoting democracies, and economic development. Humanitarian assistance programs meet these goals by providing the Combatant Commanders with unobtrusive, low cost, but highly effective instruments to carry out their theater security cooperation strategies.

Thus far, President Bush has pledged \$350 million to the tsunami and earthquake relief efforts. For additional information and latest news on U.S. Government efforts to support tsunami affected areas and DSCA's HAMA programs please check the following web links:

USAID - http://www.usaid.gov/locations/asia_near_east/tsunami/

DoD - <http://www.defenselink.mil/home/features/tsunami/>

DoD resources heading to the region - <http://www.defenselink.mil/news/tsunami.pdf>

PACOM - <http://www.pacom.mil/>.

DSCA - <http://www.dsca.mil/programs/HA/HA.htm>