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Press Release

BALANCE BUFFALO DISASTER RESPONSE EXERCISE HELD IN BANGLADESH ON AUGUST 25 – SEPTEMBER 4 2013

DHAKA, SEPTEMBER 10 – The U.S. Embassy Dhaka is pleased to announce the completion of “Balance Buffalo,” a disaster response exercise sponsored by the U.S. Pacific Command (PACOM) designed to build the civic outreach capability of the Bangladesh Coast Guard (BCG). Balance Buffalo was held at the Bangladesh Coast Guard Zonal Headquarters in Mongla and Bhola from August 25 – September 4. Participants from the Bangladesh Coast Guard and local disaster response stakeholders took part in planning exercises at two Coastal Crisis Management Centers (CCMC). The United States is sponsoring the ongoing construction of 30 CCMCs in Bangladesh's coastal region in order to provide the BCG with a platform to conduct humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, law enforcement, protection of fisheries, anti-piracy, and anti-smuggling operations.

In the spirit of a whole of government response, representatives from the Ministry of Disaster Management & Relief, Armed Forces Division, Civil Surgeon, Forest Service, and Upazilla representatives participated in table top exercises which enhanced the BCG’s capacity for civil-military integration and response during future disasters. This improves the capabilities and effectiveness of the BCG in planning and executing disaster relief support to coastal communities in Bangladesh's vulnerable littoral region.

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