



14 February 2003

INFORMATION PAPER

SUBJECT: Hurricane Evacuation Study, Guam

1. Purpose: To provide information on the subject project.
2. Points of Major Interest and Facts.

a. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is authorized to conduct hurricane/typhoon preparedness studies under the Flood Plain Management Services Program, established by Section 206 of the Flood Control Act of 1960, as amended. These studies, collectively referred to Hurricane Evacuation Studies (HES) through fiscal year 2001, were comprised of a series of technical data reports intended to provide local emergency managers state-of-the-art information to assist in hurricane/typhoon preparedness and decision making.

b. New technical guidelines for conducting hurricane/typhoon evacuation studies for island communities were developed as a result of recommendations made by a January 2002 HES Islands Task Force report.

c. In fiscal year 2002, the new study process used existing data from multiple sources (e.g., behavioral surveys, evacuation statistics, sheltering information, etc.) to produce an interactive computer spreadsheet program which will allow island emergency managers to manipulate various data sets to produce scenarios for mass management of their island populations.

d. Guam received an initial Mass Management Tool (MMT) product in July 2002 and was trained in its use in August 2002. Plans for FY03 and beyond call for refinement of the initial MMT as mapping, hazards, cultural/behavioral and GIS databases become available.

3. Congressional Interest. There is Congressional interest among various members of Congress associated with typhoon/hurricane vulnerable areas and by the headquarters staff of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers who seek appropriate levels of funding and analytical results which could enhance the predictive tools available to local civil defense authorities.