

Urban Search and Rescue Non-Certification Instructor

Municipal Government Unit of Kalibo , Philippines

Assignment title	Urban Search and Rescue Instructor (Non Certification)		
Partner organisation	Municipal Government of Kalibo		
Location	Philippines	Kalibo, Aklan	
Type of assignment	In-country Assignment		
Duration of assignment	12 months		
Assignment phases	Phase	Mode	Duration
	1	In-Country	12 months
Proposed start date	21 February 2027		
Website	https://kaliboaklan.gov.ph/		
Australian organisation:	No AO linked		

ABOUT THE PARTNER ORGANISATION

Kalibo is the capital town of the Province of Aklan located North of the island of Panay in Region VI with a population of 93,218 based on the 2024 Census of the Philippine Statistics Authority although this is a permanent population while daytime transient population could triple the number due to the schools, industry, commerce and government agencies where people go to school at or work.

The objective is to train groups of individuals as Kalibo MDRRMO will start to revitalize its Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Light to Medium Task Forces in preparation for any eventualities that may need the capability of such individuals, and this shall also include training of potential local non certified instructors. The training shall be anchored on the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group's (INSARAG) guidelines. The US&R Task Forces will come from the Kalibo MDRRM Office, Bureau of Fire Protection, Philippine Coast Guard, St. Gabriel College Emergency Medical Service, Aklan Filipino Chinese Action Group (AFCAG), and Volunteers from other organizations and the Barangay Disaster Risk Reduction Management Committees.

The current capability on US&R Task Force has greatly diminished, specifically under the Kalibo MDRRMO where only about 15% of its personnel are US&R trained since most have either sought greener pastures outside the country or have left the office for a different type of employment. The ultimate goal is to create a viable and highly-trained US&R L/M Task Forces ready to tackle the next "Big One" of the West Valley Fault (purportedly the major earthquake in Metro Manila where Kalibo MDRRMO's assignment is Makati City) and the local "Big One" that will emanate from the Negros Trench.

ABOUT THE ASSIGNMENT

The assignment is essential in preparation for the next major earthquake incident specifically if it is near or within Kalibo MDRRMO's area of operations. The skills needed and will be obtained by the US&R L/M Task Force will ensure the effective ability of responding to disasters and emergencies in a moment's notice. It will have the option of getting certified in the future as a US&R Task Force under INSARAG when training is complete and all of the necessary gear and equipment is provided for.

The volunteer can support the assignment by serving as a Non-Certification instructor on US&R (USAR in Australia) to the members of the US&R L/M Task Forces that will be reorganized by Kalibo MDRRMO, which shall serve as the primary arm not only in Kalibo but wherever it is needed. There are no current instructors in the Philippines in US&R, where instructions take a while since we cannot pull out technicians from their regular work as it will place a vacuum in the response capability of the town, while the Office of Civil Defense's program is centered only on CSSR (Collapse Structure Search and Rescue), which is only a component of US&R where there are Confined Space Rescue, Tunnel Rescue, Technical High Angle Rescue, US&R Management, Hazardous Materials, Individual Equipment Tool Usage, Light to Medium Equipment Tool Usage, Shoring and Stabilization, Scene Safety and Risk Assessment and others.

Kalibo MDRRMO is one of the oldest Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office in Region VI established in 2012 and it proudly carries the tradition of innovation and technological adaptation as it has embraced the concept of smart city system since 2016 where it has the most sophisticated CCTV System, Weather and Flood Surveillance Platform, and C5ISR (Command, Control, Communications, Coordination, Cyber, Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance) capability with redundant systems integration including a Mobile C5ISR Vehicle. The volunteer can absorb the learnings and integration in disaster risk reduction and management with the Japanese Bosai System as it clearly is a very different concept from the Australian setup not to mention the cultural exchange and learnings.

ASSIGNMENT OBJECTIVES AND PROPOSED ACTIVITIES

The volunteer will work alongside members of Kalibo MDRRMO Special Operations Unit to support the objectives below, structured in progressive phases aligned with INSARAG guidelines for USAR light-to-medium task forces:

Assignment objectives	Proposed activities
In-Country Phase Objective: To build foundational US&R knowledge	- Introduction and overview of USAR operations. - Roles and responsibilities of USAR teams with Incident Command System (ICS) integration. - Safety culture and risk management principles.
In-Country Phase Objective: To develop core search and technical skills (US&R Phase One)	Train on team composition, BoO setup, PPE, hazard recognition, collapse types, and INSARAG marking

	○ Team composition (Type I-III), deployment phases, base of operations (BoO) setup. ○ Logistics, communications, accountability, PPE requirements and inspection. ○ Hydration, fatigue management, LCES in structural collapse zones; hazard recognition. ○ Types of structural collapse (lean-to, V-shape, pancake, cantilever); building construction basics, collapse patterns, entrapment locations. ○ Marking systems (INSARAG). ● Practice surface, technical search (cameras, drones, seismic tools) and canine operations with safety protocols ○ Surface Search: Rapid recon, victim identification, search grids and area division. ○ Technical Search: Search cameras, fiber optic systems, listening devices (Delsar, seismic detection), drone-assisted search. ○ Canine Search Operations: K9 deployment guidelines, safety around K9 teams, marker protocols.
In-Country Phase Objective: To master rescue techniques and operations (US&R Phase Two)	● Continue knowledge and training development on the following: ○ Rescue Tools & Equipment: Hand tools (picks, bars, sledges), breaching/breaking tools, pneumatic/hydraulic tools, airbags/lifting systems, power tools safety, confined space rescue equipment. ○ Shoring, Stabilization & Tunneling: Types of shores (temporary vertical, horizontal, T-spot, raker); installation/inspection, wood quality/load calculations, tunneling/cribbing techniques. ○ Breaching, Breaking & Cutting: Techniques for concrete, masonry, steel, rebar; dust control, tool selection matrix. ○ Lifting & Moving: Heavy lifting concepts, airbag operations, cribbing principles, leveraging/mechanical advantage, improvised lifting methods. ○ Confined Space Rescue: Atmospheric monitoring, entry procedures, ventilation, lockout/tagout,

	retrieval systems, rescue from narrow/restricted areas. ○ Rope Rescue for USAR: Knots/hitches, anchor systems, lowering/hauling (Z-rig, 3:1, 5:1), vertical/high-angle operations. ○ Medical Operations in Collapse Zones: Crush/compartment syndrome, trauma management, triage (START/SALT), patient packaging (SKED, spineboard, stokes), extraction considerations. ○ Hazardous Materials Awareness: Hazards in collapsed structures (gas leaks, electrical, chemicals), PPE/decontamination, hot/warm/cold zone setup. ○ Wide-Area Search (WAS): Search management, mapping/tracking, digital tools (GIS, mobile apps), missing persons protocols. ○ Water & Flood USAR Integration (Optional): Flood current behavior, boat operations, swift water hazards in urban settings, search in submerged debris areas.
In-Country Phase Objective: To apply skills through practical exercises (US&R Phase Three)	● Practice rescue operations planning and field scenarios decision-making: ○ Rescue Operations Planning: Size-up/decision-making, action planning, resource tracking, coordination with response agencies/volunteer groups, documentation. ○ Field Exercises/Scenarios: Collapsed structure rescue scenario, night search operations, multi-team coordination drill, mass-casualty integrated exercise.
Inclusion objective and proposed activity The volunteer will work alongside the partner organisation to uphold values of diversity, equity and inclusion. Inclusive approaches will aim to make everyone welcome and support equal access to activities and opportunities regardless of gender, age, disability status or background (eg religion, language, ethnicity and marginalised or vulnerable groups). The volunteer will work alongside members of Kalibo MDRRMO Special Operations Unit to: ● Conduct classroom and field-based training in Urban Search and Rescue ensuring adaptation for gender, age, disability and diverse backgrounds.	

SELECTION CRITERIA

Education and qualifications

Essential	Desirable
Instructor in Urban Search and Rescue Training	- Certifications in rope rescue, confined space rescue, or hazardous materials (HazMat) awareness. - Instructor experience in ICS (Incident Command System) or equivalent command structures.

Knowledge and experience

Essential	Desirable
- Proven experience as USAR Management Instructor, delivering light-to-medium task force training - Hands-on expertise in USAR Technical Training	Background in urban search and rescue operations or similar high-risk environments

Following the Program's values on locally led development, this Assignment Description has been developed and negotiated in good faith with the Partner Organisation. The information contained was correct at the time of acceptance of the request. However, while we take responsibility for matters under our direct control, all assignments and arrangements are subject to change. This assignment may be amended or withdrawn to reflect changes in circumstances.

Line Manager: Chief, MDRRM Office

Working relationships: US&R Light and Medium Task Force

Hours and days of work:

In-country phase

Full time

Leave: All volunteers are entitled to 20 days leave per 12 months, unless advised otherwise. The same conditions and terms as local colleagues apply, including national holidays.

Work from home: Working from home while on an in-country phase must be in line with usual partner organisation's practices and agreed with the in-country office.

Professional indemnity insurance *(Required for all volunteers who are acting as a medical, allied health or legal professional whilst on assignment):*

No, this assignment is not deemed to require professional indemnity insurance

The volunteer should consult the partner organisation about the need for professional indemnity insurance for the role prior to departure. Where required and/or considered essential to hold this insurance, please discuss this with the Volunteer Services Manager in Melbourne prior to departure.

LIFE AS A VOLUNTEER

The Australian Volunteers Program supports volunteers from preparing to go on assignment through to returning home. For a full breakdown of support provided including assignment allowances, please visit: <https://www.australianvolunteers.com/volunteering/lifestyle-and-support/>

Country context

Learn more about the host country's location by reading the country profile. We encourage candidates to research the specific location of this assignment as it will be discussed and addressed with a recruitment officer during the interview process.

For more information, please visit country links:

<https://www.australianvolunteers.com/countries/philippines> and

<https://www.dfat.gov.au/geo/philippines>

HOW TO APPLY

All applications must be submitted online through the Australian Volunteers Program website. If you have not already done so, you will need to register on our website prior to applying. For more information about how to apply, please visit:

<https://www.australianvolunteers.com/volunteering/how-it-works>

We actively support and encourage people of all backgrounds and abilities to volunteer internationally and aim to make the program as accessible and inclusive as possible. The program has a dedicated Indigenous Programs Coordinator to support Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander volunteers, who can be contacted at indigenouspathways@australianvolunteers.com. Access and inclusion plans are available for volunteers with disabilities, to ensure their assignments and living and working arrangements are made more accessible.

Personal circumstances *(This may not apply for Remote-only assignments; consider discussing with AVP team)*

Due to security, cultural, legal or visa restrictions associated with this location, we ask that applicants disclose the following:

- If they want their same-sex partner to accompany them on assignment.
- If they want their partner, to whom they are not legally married, to accompany them on assignment.
- If they want their child(ren) to accompany them on assignment.
- If they have a criminal conviction where a criminal conviction may be relevant to the inherent requirements of the assignment.