

## **ORGANIZATIONAL PREPAREDNESS AND READINESS ON DISASTER RESPONSE OF ARMED FORCES RESERVE COMMAND (AFPRESKOM) IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION (NCR)**

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### **Abstract**

Disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) is characterized as a comprehensive strategy for identifying, evaluating, and analyzing hazards linked to disasters to lessen their potential threats. In the Philippines, the Armed Forces of the Philippines Reserve Command (AFPRESKOM) is responsible for implementing the Republic Act 10121, known as Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management. This is in lieu of the vulnerability to multiple volcanic potential threats, typhoons, and other natural disasters from the location of the Philippines in the Pacific Ring of Fire. Therefore, this study is conducted through survey questionnaires to assess the effectiveness of implementing the law in the Technical and Administrative Services Brigade disaster preparedness. Gathered data from 100 respondents showed favorable responses to the organizational structure of AFPRESKOM. This indicated that the organization is prepared regarding its program and staffing structures, training, equipment,

and funding. However, funding support is rated lower than other factors that may imply inadequate technical support, which may cause delay for AFPRESCOM in providing response services to disastrous occurrences.

**Keywords:** Risk Reduction; Natural disasters; Hazards; AFP; Philippines

## INTRODUCTION

The Philippines has consistently ranked among the most vulnerable countries to natural disasters for the past 20 years, according to the 2015 report of the Centre for Research on the Epidemiology of Disasters and the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction. The country is vulnerable to several types of natural disasters, including volcanic eruptions, tropical cyclones, earthquakes, and tsunamis. Due to the Philippines' location in the Ring of Fire, multiple active volcanoes pose a potential threat, and typhoons are a particular concern. On average, the country experiences about five severe storms annually (CFE-DM, 2018).

The National Capital Region (NCR), or Metropolitan Manila, is the main urban hub and the center of politics, economy, and society in the Philippines. It comprises 16 cities and 1 municipality, and it is the country's smallest and most densely populated region, as reported by the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in 2015. However, the location of Metro Manila is vulnerable to natural disasters such as tropical cyclones and earthquakes, which pose a threat to life and property due to the region's high population density and economic activity (Aning, 2017).

The Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Act of 2010, also known as Republic Act 10121, has shifted the focus from disaster preparedness and response to Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM). The National DRRM Plan serves as a national guide for sustainable development through institutionalizing policies and programs and promoting inclusive growth and community resilience. The goal is gender-responsive and rights-based sustainable development for people's welfare and security.

The Office of Civil Defense (OCD), a division of the Department of National Defense, is responsible for creating and executing the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan (NDRRMP). The OCD's primary duty is to lead the development of strategic and systematic approaches to reduce vulnerability and risk to hazards, as well as manage the consequences of disasters. In addition, the Reserve Force of the Armed Forces of the Philippines is one of the organizations that aids in disaster response. The Citizen Armed Forces or Armed Forces of the Philippines Reservist Act outlines the policy for expanding the Armed Forces in times of war, invasion, or rebellion, as well as providing relief and assistance during disasters, aiding in socioeconomic development, and maintaining essential government or private utilities.

The Reserve Force has five components managed by the Armed Forces Reserve Command. There are around 385,000 reservists, with 78,000 always prepared through training (Aning, 2017; Republic Act No. 7077 Citizen Armed Forces or the Armed Forces of the Philippines Reservist Act, 1991). They assist the regular armed forces during national emergencies and local disasters, and there are two types of reservists: "Ready" and "Standby." "Ready"

Reservists" are physically fit and always on constant alert and training. They are ready to mobilize once a mobilization order has been given. "Standby Reservists" are reservist personnel who do not maintain currency in specialization qualifications but serve as a base for expansion, support, and augmentation to the Ready Reserve Force as needed.

Armed Forces of the Philippines Reserve Command (AFPRESKOM) is involved in Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), medical missions, staff training, firing, and honor squads. They collaborate with local government DRRM units in NCR to reinforce disaster response operations. AFP Reservist DRRM units will act as first responders, helping Local Government Units (LGUs) DRRM components during disasters and leading disaster preparedness and response activities (Armed Forces of the Philippines Reserve Command, 2018).

In preparation for typhoon season, the AFP, Office of the Civil Defense (OCD), and the Department of National Defense (DND) are taking assertive measures. As part of the DRRM Units Integration Program, they are forcefully organizing and activating DRRM Companies to help build disaster-resilient communities and ensure unhampered development. The integration program also establishes a strong partnership between the AFP and OCD to provide rigorous training, cutting-edge equipment, and substantial funding support for proposed DRRM companies in all 18 regions of the country. Moreover, it demands a significant improvement in the reserve force's capability through intensive unit and individual training in collaboration with concerned stakeholders.

The Republic Act 10121 has been in effect for twelve years and is now due for a review. It is important to assess how well the law has been implemented, particularly in terms of integrating Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) into agency strategies. Thus, this study aims to evaluate the organization, management, and effectiveness of the Armed Forces Reserved Command of the National Capital Region in carrying out disaster response operations in Metro Manila.

## **METHODOLOGY**

A survey questionnaire using a Likert scale was administered to gather primary data for the study. Respondents were selected from the Technical and Administrative Services Brigade encompassing cities in Metro Manila of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Command Headquarters at Camp General Emilio Aguinaldo in Quezon City. In order to determine the 100 respondents for the sample size for the study, Slovic's formula was utilized. The secondary data was then gathered from relevant articles concerning disaster risk reduction management, significant policy documents, and strategical papers engaging AFPRESKOM of the government disaster risk reduction management.

The study utilized a one-time, one-shot study design in which one group is analyzed after undergoing a single event, treatment, or intervention (APA Dictionary of Psychology, n.d.). Whereas descriptive correlation research was used to characterize the relationship between variables instead of attempting to infer cause and effect correlation (Taking the Mystery out of Research: Descriptive Correlational Design - ProQuest, n.d.) to ensure credible and valid

findings. On the other hand, gathered data was processed and analyzed by using statistical tools such as percentage, weighted mean, and test of difference of means, chi-square test, and analysis of variance. This generated diagrams in tabular form to present the summarized results of data.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

A survey was conducted among 100 Armed Forces members of the Philippines Reserve Command 1st Technical and Administrative Services Brigade. This brigade is comprised of five groups, namely the 101st TAS Group covering Valenzuela and northern NCR cities, the 102nd TAS Group for Manila City, the 103rd TAS Group for Pasig and San Juan, the 104th TAS Group for Pasay and Las Pinas, and the 105th TAS Group for Quezon City. The respondents comprised 75 males and 25 females, aged 21 to 65 years old, and an average age of 40.66 with a standard deviation of 8.42 years. Of the respondents, 51 were already married, 47 were single, and 2 were widowers. As for body mass index classification, 73% were considered healthy, while 18% were classified as overweight and 9% as obese. Most respondents (43) were high school graduates, while the rest were either college undergraduates or postgraduate units. Regarding training attendance, 40% of the respondents still need to attend the training programs AFPRESKOM offers. The training programs attended varied from civil-military to emergency response-related training, but all were disaster or emergency related.

**Table 1: Demographic Characteristics of Respondents**

	Frequency (n=100)	Percentage
<b>Age (in years)</b>		
21 – 25	6	6.0
26 – 30	10	10.0
31 – 35	21	21.0
36 – 40	24	24.0
41 – 45	18	18.0
46 – 50	11	11.0
51 – 55	8	8.0
56 – 60	1	1.0
>60	1	1.0
Mean ± SD = 40.66 ± 8.42		
<b>Sex</b>		
Male	75	75.0
Female	25	25.0
<b>Civil Status</b>		
Married	51	51.0
Single	47	47.0
Widow	2	2.0
<b>Current Rank</b>		
EP	100	100
<b>BMI</b>		

Healthy (18.5-24.9)	62	62.0
Overweight (25-29.9)	29	29.0
Obese (30>)	9	9.0
<b><i>Educational Attainment</i></b>		
High School undergraduate	1	1.0
High School Graduate	42	42.0
College Undergraduate	33	33.0
College Graduate	17	17.0
PGC	3	3.0
PGN	4	4.0
<b><i>Number of Training Programs</i></b>		
0	40	40.0
1	20	20.0
2	18	18.0
3	4	4.0
4	9	9.0
5	3	3.0
6	6	6.0

Table 2 displays the different training programs provided to the participants along with the number of attendees. The total number of attendees exceeds 100 as some participants have attended multiple programs, while 40 have not participated in any. AFPRESCOM previously only offered Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) and Water Search and Rescue (WASAR) training programs. However, including additional programs reveals the organization's growth and ability to aid in various disasters.

**Table 2: Training Programs Attended by the Respondents**

Title of Training Program	Number of Respondents Attended
Urban Search and Rescue (USAR)	21/100
Water Search and Rescue (WASAR)	24/100
Collapsed Building Search and Rescue (CBSR)	15/100
Incident Command System (ICS)	15/100
Disaster Environment and Rescue Techniques (DEART)	10/100
Combat Life Support Training (CLST)	8/100
Health Emergency Medical System (HEMS)	9/100
Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)	3/100
Civil Military Operations (CMO)	3/100
Others	13/100

Table 3 shows the responses of the participants regarding the level of readiness and organization structure of AFPRESCOM. The average score of their answers was 2, indicating that they agree with the clarity of AFPRESCOM's 1st TASB mandate, appropriateness of its HQ location, ability to foster cooperation, reputation as a regional leader in development, prompt responsiveness to requests, effective project planning, professional project monitoring, capacity building with national organizations, innovative approach, and adaptability to changing circumstances.

**Table 3: Distribution of Respondents According to their Responses on the Level of Preparedness of AFPRESCOM in Terms of Organizational Structure**

Organizational Structure	Strongly Disagree 4	Disagree 3	Agree 2	Strongly Agree 1	Do not know 0	Mean Response
AFPRESKOM 1 <sup>st</sup> TASB mandate is clear to me	2	2	66	29	1	1.75 ≈ 2
AFPRESKOM 1 <sup>st</sup> TASB HQ location is appropriate to its mandate	3	3	70	24	0	1.85 ≈ 2
AFPRESKOM 1 <sup>st</sup> TASB builds cooperation	2	2	70	25	1	1.79 ≈ 2
AFPRESKOM 1 <sup>st</sup> TASB is seen as a regional leader in development	3	3	63	27	4	1.74 ≈ 2
AFPRESKOM 1 <sup>st</sup> TAS responds quickly to our requests	1	8	66	22	3	1.82 ≈ 2
AFPRESKOM 1 <sup>st</sup> TASB plans its projects well	2	3	67	24	4	1.75 ≈ 2
AFPRESKOM 1 <sup>st</sup> TASB professionally monitors its projects	2	2	66	25	5	1.71 ≈ 2
AFPRESKOM 1 <sup>st</sup> TASB builds the capacities with national organizations	0	5	72	20	3	1.79 ≈ 2
AFPRESKOM 1 <sup>st</sup> TASB is innovative in its approaches	1	4	71	19	5	1.77 ≈ 2
AFPRESKOM 1 <sup>st</sup> TASB can adopt appropriately when required	1	3	72	20	4	1.77 ≈ 2

In Table 4, the respondents' opinions on the readiness and preparedness of AFPRESKOM in terms of staffing structure are presented. The results indicate that most respondents agree that the AFPRESKOM 1st TASB has highly skilled staff who are well-managed and recruited fairly. Additionally, the staff are supportive, communication is easy, and there is a strong emphasis on providing quality service. Evaluation is based on a fair system of performance standards. Overall, the mean score for their responses was 2.

**Table 4: Distribution of Respondents According to their Responses on the Level Preparedness of AFPRESKOM in Terms of Staffing Structure**

Staffing Structure	Strongly Disagree 4	Disagree 3	Agree 2	Strongly Agree 1	Do not know 0	Mean Response
AFPRESKOM 1 <sup>st</sup> TASB staff is of high professional caliber	1	8	63	17	11	1.71 ≈ 2
AFPRESKOM 1 <sup>st</sup> TASB is well managed	1	4	70	19	6	1.75 ≈ 2
AFPRESKOM 1 <sup>st</sup> TASB recruitment policy is fair	2	9	70	15	4	1.90 ≈ 2
AFPRESKOM 1 <sup>st</sup> TASB assignments are always explained to me	2	5	72	16	5	1.83 ≈ 2

AFPRESKOM 1 <sup>st</sup> TASB staff are supportive of me	1	5	74	17	3	1.84 ≈ 2
AFPRESKOM 1 <sup>st</sup> TASB staff and I can easily communicate from all levels of the organization	1	11	65	17	6	1.84 ≈ 2
AFPRESKOM 1 <sup>st</sup> TASB staff give enough support and guidance	2	7	74	13	4	1.90 ≈ 2
AFPRESKOM 1 <sup>st</sup> TASB values its personnel	2	4	69	21	4	1.79 ≈ 2
AFPRESKOM 1 <sup>st</sup> TASB place enough emphasis on the quality of service it provides	2	16	60	13	9	1.89 ≈ 2
AFPRESKOM 1 <sup>st</sup> TASB evaluates based on a fair system of performance standards	2	1	73	20	4	1.77 ≈ 2

Table 5 shows the respondents' views on the level of readiness and preparedness of AFPRESKOM in terms of training. The results revealed a mean score of 2, indicating that the respondents agreed that AFPRESKOM 1st TASB strongly supports staff training, offers plenty of opportunities for professional development, has competent and qualified training staff, maintains gender equality, provides continuous training for skills development, assesses the outcome of training programs, sets clear goals, provides job-related training opportunities, employs effective formal problem-solving processes, and has a fair performance review system.

**Table 5: Distribution of Respondents According to their Responses on the Level of Preparedness of AFPRESKOM in Terms of Training**

Training	Strongly Disagree 4	Disagree 3	Agree 2	Strongly Agree 1	Do not know 0	Mean Response
AFPRESKOM 1 <sup>st</sup> TASB strongly supports staff training	2	2	69	24	3	1.76 ≈ 2
AFPRESKOM 1 <sup>st</sup> TASB provides sufficient opportunity for professional development	3	2	71	21	3	1.81 ≈ 2
AFPRESKOM 1 <sup>st</sup> TASB training staff are competent and qualified	4	3	69	22	2	1.85 ≈ 2
AFPRESKOM 1 <sup>st</sup> TASB employs equality between male and female	3	4	70	17	6	1.81 ≈ 2
AFPRESKOM 1 <sup>st</sup> TASB personnel receive continuous training for skills development	3	4	64	25	4	1.77 ≈ 2
AFPRESKOM 1 <sup>st</sup> TASB provides a tool for assessment showing results of training programs	2	6	68	17	7	1.79 ≈ 2
AFPRESKOM 1 <sup>st</sup> TASB is clear on what goals are needed to be achieved	3	4	75	15	4	1.89 ≈ 2

AFPRESKOM 1 <sup>st</sup> TASB provides opportunities to participate in job related trainings.	2	7	73	14	4	1.89 ≈ 2
AFPRESKOM 1 <sup>st</sup> TASB formal problem solving process are effective	0	9	69	17	5	1.82 ≈ 2
AFPRESKOM 1 <sup>st</sup> TASB has a fair performance review system	0	6	76	14	4	1.84 ≈ 2

Table 6 displays the respondents' opinions on AFPRESKOM's readiness and preparation regarding equipment. The average score was 2, indicating agreement that AFPRESKOM's 1st TASB technological resources enable efficient and productive work focusing on innovation. Respondents also agreed that the work area is clean and free of leaks and spills, with appropriate disinfection procedures in place. Personnel protective equipment is easily accessible and utilized correctly. Additionally, they agreed that any incidents or injuries from equipment, reagents, occupational injuries, medical screening, or illnesses are documented and investigated. They noted that a designated safety officer is trained to implement and monitor safety programs, including training other staff. All equipment is operated by trained, competent, and authorized personnel, with on-site validation and verification before use. Hazardous materials are handled properly, and routine user preventive maintenance is performed on all equipment and recorded according to the manufacturer's minimum requirements.

**Table 6: Distribution of Respondents According to their Responses on the Level of Readiness and Preparedness of AFPRESKOM in Terms of Equipment**

Equipment	Strongly Disagree 4	Disagree 3	Agree 2	Strongly Agree 1	Do not know 0	Mean Response
AFPRESKOM 1 <sup>st</sup> TASB technological resources permits to carry out work efficiently and productively	1	7	76	11	5	1.88 ≈ 2
AFPRESKOM 1 <sup>st</sup> TASB has strong emphasis on innovation	1	8	74	12	5	1.88 ≈ 2
AFPRESKOM 1 <sup>st</sup> TASB work area are clean and free of leakage and spills and disinfection procedures conducted and documented	0	13	65	17	5	1.86 ≈ 2
AFPRESKOM 1 <sup>st</sup> TASB personnel protective equipment easily accessible at the work station and utilized appropriately and consistently	0	11	71	12	6	1.87 ≈ 2
AFPRESKOM 1 <sup>st</sup> TASB adverse incidents or injuries from equipment, reagents, occupational injuries, medical screening or illnesses, documented and investigated	0	10	68	16	6	1.82 ≈ 2
AFPRESKOM 1 <sup>st</sup> TASB has trained safety officer designated to implement	1	8	75	12	4	1.90 ≈ 2



and monitor the safety program in the area, including training of other staff						
AFPRESKOM 1 <sup>st</sup> TASB equipment operated by trained, competent and authorized personnel	1	7	72	17	3	1.86 ≈ 2
AFPRESKOM 1 <sup>st</sup> TASB equipment and methods validated/verified on-site upon installation and before use and documented evidence is available	1	10	70	12	7	1.86 ≈ 2
AFPRESKOM 1 <sup>st</sup> TASB Hazardous chemical/materials properly handled	1	11	66	14	8	1.83 ≈ 2
AFPRESKOM 1 <sup>st</sup> TASB has routine user preventive maintenance performed on all equipment and recorded according to manufacturer's minimum requirement	1	10	73	9	7	1.89 ≈ 2

Table 7 shows the respondents' ratings on AFPRESKOM's funding readiness and preparedness. The average score was 2, with some scoring higher, indicating agreement that AFPRESKOM's 1st TASB provides personnel with benefits such as uniforms, meal allowances, incentives, insurance, training funds, auditing procedures, private donations and grants, transportation, fuel and oil allowances, and non-monetary perks and privileges.

**Table 7: Distribution of Respondents According to their Responses on the Level of Readiness and Preparedness of AFPRESKOM in Terms of Funding**

Funding	Strongly Disagree 4	Disagree 3	Agree 2	Strongly Agree 1	Do not know 0	Mean Response
AFPRESKOM 1 <sup>st</sup> TASB provides uniforms to personnel	3	11	59	25	2	1.88 ≈ 2
AFPRESKOM 1 <sup>st</sup> TASB provides meal allowances	5	43	29	14	9	2.21 ≈ 2
AFPRESKOM 1 <sup>st</sup> TASB provides incentives	6	39	35	10	10	2.21 ≈ 2
AFPRESKOM 1 <sup>st</sup> TASB provides loss of life or limb insurances	9	33	39	13	6	2.26 ≈ 2
AFPRESKOM 1 <sup>st</sup> TASB provides training funds	9	30	42	13	6	2.23 ≈ 2
AFPRESKOM 1 <sup>st</sup> TASB practices strict auditing procedures	4	18	59	9	10	1.97 ≈ 2
AFPRESKOM 1 <sup>st</sup> TASB receives private donations and grants	4	26	46	6	18	1.92 ≈ 2
AFPRESKOM 1 <sup>st</sup> TASB provides transportation allowances	7	34	38	11	10	2.17 ≈ 2
AFPRESKOM 1 <sup>st</sup> TASB provides fuel and oil allowances	6	20	52	17	5	2.05 ≈ 2
AFPRESKOM 1 <sup>st</sup> TASB personnel equally receives non-monetary perks and privileges.	8	15	56	10	11	1.99 ≈ 2

Table 8 reveals respondents' opinions on the readiness level of AFRESCOM. The average score of their responses was 2, except for funding, which had a score of >2. The respondents agreed that the AFPRESCOM 1st TASB responds quickly to requests, has innovative approaches, adapts appropriately, communicates effectively throughout the organization, has competent and qualified training staff, has an effective formal problem-solving process, uses technological resources efficiently, emphasizes innovation, and receives private donations and grants. However, funding was the only area where the readiness score was below 2.

**Table 8: Overall Responses on the Level of Readiness of AFRESCOM**

	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	Do not know/ No Answer	Weighted Mean	Weighted Mean/ Response
<b>ORGANIZATIONAL</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>			
AFPRESKOM 1st TASB responds quickly to our requests	1	8	66	23	2	183	≈2
AFPRESKOM 1st TASB is innovative in its approaches	1	4	71	19	5	177	≈2 1.867 1.863
AFPRESKOM 1st TASB can adopt appropriately when required	1	3	72	20	4	177	1.844≈2
<b>STAFFING</b>							
AFPRESKOM 1st TASB staff and I can easily communicate from all levels of the organization	1	11	65	17	6	184	1.957 ≈2
<b>TRAINING</b>							
AFPRESKOM 1st TASB training staff are competent and qualified	4	3	70	21	2	186	1.898≈2
<b>EQUIPMENT</b>							
AFPRESKOM 1st TASB formal problem solving process are effective	0	9	69	17	5	182	1.916≈2
AFPRESKOM 1st TASB technological resources permits to carry out work efficiently and productively	1	6	77	11	5	187	1.968 ≈2
AFPRESKOM 1st TASB has Strong Emphasis on Innovation	1	8	74	12	5	188	1.979 ≈2
<b>FUNDING</b>							
AFPRESKOM 1st TASB Receives private donations And grants	4	26	46	6	18	192	2.341 ≈2

Table 9 summarizes the preparedness operational dimensions' weighted mean scores. The organizational and staffing structures have similar scores, with staffing having the highest mean score of 1.85. Training and equipment have almost the same mean score, with 1.89 and 1.93, respectively. Funding has received the lowest mean score of 2.22.

**Table 9: Summary of Over-all Responses on the Level of Preparedness of AFPRESCOM**

	Strongly Disagree 4	Disagree 3	Agree 2	Strongly Agree 1	Do not know 0	Mean Response
Organizational						
Structure	1	3	77	19	0	1.86 ≈ 2
Staffing Structure	1	4	78	13	4	1.85 ≈ 2
Training	3	5	73	16	3	1.89 ≈ 2
Equipment	1	10	74	11	4	1.93 ≈ 2
Funding	6	32	46	10	6	2.22 ≈ 2

Table 10 shows the *P-values* that compare the demographic characteristics of respondents based on their responses about the readiness and preparedness of AFRESCOM. The results indicate a significant difference between the responses of males and females regarding equipment readiness ( $p=0.03$ ), with more males giving a positive response. There was also a significant difference between educational levels and responses to organizational structure and training ( $p<0.0001$ ), with higher levels of education leading to more positive responses. Additionally, the number of training attended significantly impacted equipment readiness ( $p=0.03$ ), with more training leading to more positive responses.

**Table 10: P-Values for the Comparison of the Different Demographic Characteristics of Respondents**

According to the Over All Responses on the Level of Preparedness of AFRESCOM

	Organizational Structure	Staffing Structure	Training	Equipment	Funding
A	0.99	0.80	0.97	0.47	0.92
			0.19		
Sex <sup>†</sup>	0.07 (NS)	0.72 (NS)		<b>0.03 (S)</b>	0.30 (NS)
Civil Status <sup>‡</sup>	0.89 (NS)	0.95 (NS)	0.98 (NS)	0.89 (NS)	0.45 (NS)
Current Rank <sup>‡</sup>	1.00 (NS)	1.00 (NS)	1.00 (NS)	1.00 (NS)	1.00 (NS)
BMI <sup>‡</sup>	0.53 (NS)	0.46 (NS)	0.47 (NS)	0.33 (NS)	0.78 (NS)
Educational Attainment <sup>‡</sup>	<b>&lt;0.0001 (S)</b>	0.41 (NS)	<b>&lt;0.0001 (S)</b>	0.17 (NS)	0.40 (NS)
Number of Training <sup>‡</sup>	0.71 (NS)	0.30 (NS)	0.52 (NS)	<b>0.03 (S)</b>	0.65 (NS)

\*  $p>0.05$ - Not significant;  $p \leq 0.05$ -Significant; <sup>†</sup>Chi-square test; <sup>‡</sup>ANOVA

Table 11 shows the comparison of mean scores between the five operational dimensions of preparedness to the mean score for readiness. The t-test indicates that the mean scores of

organization and funding significantly differ from the mean score for readiness, indicating a gap between the two. In contrast, the mean scores for staffing, training, and equipment showed no significant difference, suggesting that they do not have as much of an impact on readiness as organizational structure and funding. This implies that AFPRESCOM is consistently ready for action, even with limited staff, training, and equipment. However, their level of preparedness can be influenced by their organizational structure and funding.

**Table 11: P Values for the Comparison of the Respondents Over-all Responses on the Level of Readiness and Preparedness of AFPRESCOM (t-Test)**

Operational Dimension Preparedness	Readiness		Findings
	P value	t - value	
Organization	.0142	-2.444	Significant at p < .05
Staffing	.2687	-0.630	Not significant at p < .05
Training	.1855	-0.922	Not significant at p < .05
Equipment	.3984	0.262	Not significant at p < .05
Funding	.0003	4.188	Significant at p < .05

**Table 12: Strengths and Weaknesses of AFPRESCOM Operational Dimensions Relative to Preparedness**

Operational Dimension	Strengths	Weakness
Organizational Structure	Tasks and responsibilities are clearly spelled out.	Personnel are not permanently in their offices. They can get mobilized anytime, but the time lag may delay response—no survey yet of vulnerabilities and hazards.
Staffing	Organization manages well and values its personnel, is supportive and has fair performance standards	10.0% of personnel are over 50 years of age. Some personnel is classified as physically unfit (29% overweight, 9.0% obese).
Training	Availability of training programs	40% Of personnel still do not have training; the Schedule of training programs is not regular
Equipment	Equipment is well maintained.	Need to modernize equipment; only rudimentary equipment available
Funding	Fund use is maximized; low losses	Limited funding for programs, equipment, and incentives.

Overall, the respondents have a favorable view of AFPRESCOM's organizational structure. However, upon further inquiry, it was discovered that the nature of their organization impacts their readiness. While AFPRESCOM's personnel are on call 24/7, their availability during sudden disasters may be delayed, potentially leading to loss of life and property.

As a result, AFPRESCOM is primarily focused on recovery and rehabilitation operations. While the perception of staffing structure of the organization is generally viewed positively, some concerns need to be addressed... 10.0% of personnel are over the age of 50 and may experience physical strain during rescue operations.

Moreover, more than one-third of the participants are overweight or obese, which can affect their physical capabilities. Although the perception of training is positive, there are two critical

problems. None of the personnel received all necessary training, and 40% have not received any disaster training. This is due to a lack of trainers and irregular training offerings. The perception of equipment is also positive, but there are limitations.

AFPRESKOM does not have unmanned air vehicles/drones with cameras, snake cameras, or heavy gear. Additionally, there is limited transport equipment, which can hinder mobilization during disaster response.

Lastly, while funding perception is positive, it needs improvement. No budget for sophisticated equipment, limited incentives, or meal allowance exists. This makes involvement in disaster response by AFPRESKOM more like a charity activity than a paid job.

## CONCLUSION

A group of 100 members from the Armed Forces of the Philippines Reserve Command 1st Technical and Administrative Services Brigade were surveyed, consisting of 75 males and 25 females aged 21 to 65.

Among the respondents, 40% have not attended training programs, while the others have attended various disaster and emergency-related programs. AFPRESKOM used to offer only two training programs but has since added more, indicating an evolving approach to disaster response.

However, the availability of trainers affects the regularity of training programs. Overall, respondents agree that AFPRESKOM is quick to respond to requests, innovative, and has competent and qualified training staff, effective formal problem-solving processes, and reliable technological resources.

Respondents also agree that AFPRESKOM is prepared regarding organizational and staffing structures, training, equipment, and funding. However, there needs to be more organizational structure and funding with readiness.

The results also show that while staffing, equipment, and training provision are adequate, funding support is rated lower than other indicators. This could be a weakness if disaster risk reduction-related functions are operationalized, as the lack of financial resources will delay service provision during disaster response.

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