Emergency Operations and Disaster Management

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**Emergency Operations and Disaster Management**

**Question One**

**Disaster Management by Police**

Disaster management is the organization and alignment of resources and responsibilities to handle emergencies based on humanitarian aspects. Disaster management aims to respond, prepare and help recovery after the emergency to lessen and heal from its impacts.

I concur with the opinion that the police department should be the lead disaster management. Police can perform the role perfectly due to their dynamic nature and training in disaster management issues. They have the powers and ability to arrest and investigate a criminal or a suspect. For example, police can quickly investigate an attack disaster in a typical city in the United States like San Francisco, California. They have the instruments and the powers supported and funded by the government to investigate the threat and harmonize the situation. Police officers undergo disaster management training that is significant to relieve the victims of a disaster. If the disaster is more severe, they can perform the relief and rescue mission before special forces arrive at the scene (Eshghi & Larson, 2008). For example, during floods, police officers can guard, test, and secure rescue boats and other requirements by the divers before they arrive.

Additionally, police officers are usually employed almost everywhere in the city, and hence, they are always on the lookout to respond to emergency issues. Their massive employment can facilitate accessible communication and response, unlike other special forces, which are sometimes localized in the headquarters and may take longer to arrive at the scene. For example, special operation forces like Army Night Stalkers, Marine RECON, and Army Rangers in the United States are usually localized in the headquarters are and flew to the scene during the emergency (Stilwell, 2021).

However, for effectiveness in the disaster management process, police officers have to cooperate with other special agencies regarding the nature of the disaster (Rahman et al., 2019). For example, a disaster like the COVID-19 response would require health officers, but police officers can control the public from interacting or touching the victim to avoid infections before they arrive.

**Question Two**

**The Role Outside Police Department`s Scope**

Establishing a method for utilizing and obtaining additional resources during an emergency would be outside the scope of the police department's ability. In the United States, states have the power to establish and enforce relevant laws based on citizens' public safety, health, and welfare. State governance, therefore, makes policies to fund and stream resources to the police department. Control and additional police resources are not under the direct supervision of the department. The police department has to rely on other sources like the national and the state government for financial policymaking and funding.

The Chief of Police (COP), the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the police department, is answerable to the senior authorities on resources management matters in the relevant department. Also, the police department has no direct authority of resources like finances and securing of equipment. It receives financial funding from forfeitures, private donations, fees, and fines grans and funding by the national government. The utilization of police resources is based on ethics which must be faithful to the system (Maskaly et al., 2017). For example, a review of some complaints is conducted independently against law enforcement by the police instead of conducting an internal investigation.

The police department employs different resources to accomplish its duties and activities. For example, they may require financial support to help secure equipment like vehicles and clothing to facilitate their activities. However, they may be inappropriate to determine the costs and inflation patterns in the commodity market. Hence, they will require financial specialists who can adjust their budget to align it with the market requirement. Therefore, the police department will rely on other financial agencies to determine the resources required, their cost, and where they can be purchased. For example, if the department wants to secure patrol vehicles, they must rely on import authorities to determine the import taxes required, destination, and attainment of relevant certificates. The Agency can advise on the best country to import from, and the importation means as per the urgency of the equipment.

When the department wants additional resources from the relevant agencies, they have to undergo a legal process of securing public finances. Hence, obtaining and utilizing resources depends on the urgency and credibility of the facts provided by the department to the funding institutions. The separation of powers and roles among the agencies can help reduce cases of resource mismanagement and ease tracing fraudulent actions. For example, police officers are usually many, and hence tracing resource usage among them may be impossible but having a single institution responsible for the resources create openness and integrity.

**Question Three**

**Requirement Beyond The Police Chief**

Selecting the crisis team personnel to respond to an emergency is beyond the police department and the head chief. The police department should receive orders from above to respond to a particular disaster. The national emergency and disaster management agencies should determine the nature and the urgency of the disaster then decide on the most appropriate team to employ in harmonizing the situation. Some disasters may fit the police department, while others may require skilled personnel in the area of specialization (Sheek-Hussein, 2021). For example, the emergence of COVID-19 has posed a disaster in the United States requiring response by the relevant teams. Controlling and rescuing COVID-victims may be unfriendly to the police department because they may have no or have less protective gears to prevent transmission of the virus as they try to rescue the victims.

Such issues will require medical skills and personnel with the knowledge to handle diseases like doctors and nurses. The national disaster management team should formulate and recommend the necessary group to perform the rescue mission depending on its nature and requirements. Medical officers will save the victim and provide first-aid services before the victim is reached to the necessary healthcare facility. Although the police department may save the victim, they may risk their lives and health, especially if they have low-quality protective kits like masks and gloves. Additionally, they may be unsure of the necessary healthcare services required by the patient at that particular time. Every operation should have a special team to manage the disaster (Sheek-Hussein, 2021). The police chiefs should receive orders from the threat assessors to employ their officers in a specific disaster after consideration and determination of the effectiveness of the group to deliver quality services.

**Question Four**

**Most Critical Requirement**

Identification of resource availability before employing a particular is the most critical role to effective disaster management. Different disasters require different resources. For example, fire outbreak disasters require fire extinguisher cylinders, hydrants, smoke detectors, and fire retardant coverall. Disease outbreak rescue tools may include first aid kits, painkillers, inhalers, and masks, while a terrorism disaster will require war equipment like guns, grenades, and heavy bullet-proof tools. The nature of the disaster determines the team and the tools required to harmonize the situation. If police officers are employed to rescue a disaster that requires medical skills, their effort may be helpless because they lack the resources. Alternatively, health officers may not be employed to extinguish the fire in a building because they have no appropriate equipment (Erdelj et al., 2017). Therefore, identifying the resources a particular agency has in relation to the nature of the disaster is a critical stage that can improve the effectiveness and provision of quality services.

I consider the establishment of a crisis management center as an unimportant and insignificant step in disaster management. Crisis management centers are usually located in specific regions, primarily in cities. However, the disaster may occur away from the center. For example, a flood disaster may occur near lakes and oceans, which are usually far from town centers. Moving the disaster management personnel from the center to the scene may take longer and may risk the lives of the victims more. Rescue teams should be employed on the grounds where a particular disaster is most likely to occur (Erdelj et al., 2017). For example, attacks are usually prone along the borders of a country and major cities, and hence, employing police officers in such regions would help curb terrorism. Additionally, employing health officers in towns or areas with the highest rates of COVID-19 transmission would help the provision of healthcare services and first aid kits to the patients and hence reduce the death rate.

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