EXERCISE	*EXERCISE*	*EXERCISE*

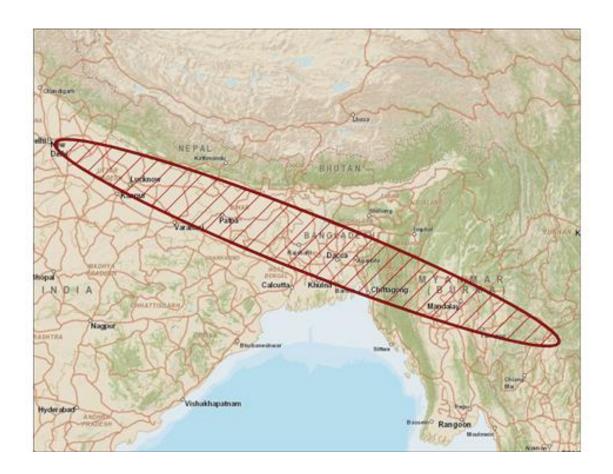*NOT A REAL WORLD EVENT* *This is part of an asteroid threat exercise conducted during the 2015 IAA Planetary Defense Conference.*

DAY 5: Update 2

PRESS RELEASE: <u>FEBRUARY 4, 2022</u>

SMALL FRAGMENT OF ASTEROID 2015 PDC WILL IMPACT IN THE REGION OF BANGLADESH, INDIA OR MYANMAR

Based on the most recent tracking observations of the fragment of 2015 PDC, IAWN announced that the smaller fragment will impact the Earth on September 3, 2022 at about 03:50 UTC. The predicted location of the impact is almost certainly in India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, or northern Thailand, as indicated by the image below. It is virtually certain that this will be a land impact or airburst.

Although the asteroid had not been observed for a year because it was on the other side of the Sun as viewed from the Earth, it just recently became observable again, and new observations confirm that the asteroid fragment is still on a collision course with Earth. Further observations over the next two months should dramatically shrink the size of the impact ellipse, and by May the impact location will be identified to within 100 km (60 miles) or so. Observations should continue until a month before impact, when the

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asteroid will move too close to the Sun as viewed from the Earth. A more accurate prediction will be available when the asteroid comes within range of the Goldstone radar about 7 days before the impact. The larger and more powerful Arecibo radar facility cannot observe this asteroid because the asteroid will not pass within its pointing window.

The size of the fragment is still uncertain. Evacuation and shelter-in-place plans must assume worst-case estimates of an asteroid as large as 100 meters with impact energy of up to 50 Megatons.

For more information, visit: **http://neo.jpl.nasa.gov/pdc15/day5-2.html**