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MARINE CORPS ORDER 3440.7C

From: Commandant of the Marine Corps
To: Distribution List

Subj: MARINE CORPS ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN DEFENSE SUPPORT OF
CIVIL AUTHORITIES (DSCA)
(Previous Subject Title: "Domestic Support Operations")

Ref: See enclosure (1)

Encl: (1) References
(2) USMC Roles and Missions in Homeland Defense and Defense
Support of Civil Authorities
(3) Glossary

1. Situation. Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA), is that support provided by United States (U.S.) U.S. Federal military forces, Department of Defense (DoD) civilians, DoD contract personnel, DoD component assets, and National Guard forces (when the Secretary of Defense (SECDEF), in coordination with the governors of the affected states, elects and requests to use those forces in Title 32, United States Code,, status (reference (a)) in response to requests for assistance from civil authorities for domestic emergencies, law enforcement support, and other domestic activities, or from qualifying entities for special events, in accordance with references (b) and (c).

a. DSCA operations are executed within the jurisdictional boundaries of all 50 States, as well as the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and any territory or possession of the U.S. or any political subdivision thereof. Only two combatant commands (CCMDs), U.S. Northern Command (USNORTHCOM) and U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM), conduct DSCA operations. Marine Forces North (MARFORNORTH) and Marine Forces Pacific (MARFORPAC) are the component commands, respectively.

b. The DoD provides DSCA, when requested by a civilian authority and approved by the SECDEF or as directed by the President of the United States (POTUS), in response to actual or potential natural or man-made disasters, catastrophic events, or emergencies. The DoD ensures military forces are prepared and ready to respond to national security emergencies/DSCA requirements. In accordance with reference (c), the Marine Corps shall support DSCA operations as directed and in accordance with existing laws, DoD issuances, and SECDEF-approved orders.

2. Cancellation. MCO 3440.7B

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3. Mission. This Order establishes Marine Corps policy and assigns responsibilities for the fulfillment of the Marine Corps' roles and responsibilities in DSCA per references (b) and (c).

4. Execution

a. Commander's Intent and Concept of Operations

(1) Commander's Intent. The Marine Corps contributes to the execution of the DoD Strategy for Homeland Defense and DSCA, as described in reference (b) according to its existing warfighting capabilities, and provides support as a component of the DoD in the execution of DSCA. Although this Order is concerned with DSCA, reference (b) affirmatively links both missions, and identifies them as the DoD's "two priority missions in the homeland;" this places DSCA in the proper strategic context. (Marine Corps participation in homeland defense and DSCA is further detailed in enclosure (2).) The desired end-state is that Marine Corps Forces (MARFOR) commanders and installation commanders are prepared to provide support in the event of a crisis.

(2) Concept of Operations. The DoD performs DSCA as a part of the Federal component of a national response to a domestic incident, in cooperation with other Federal, State, local, and tribal agencies. DSCA covers actions before, during, and after an event, with support to all levels of government. Policies for DoD participation in DSCA are stipulated in directives and statutes, while DoD operational support and execution of DSCA is defined through approved Concept Plans (CONPLANS) and Execution Orders (EXORDs). MARFORs supporting DSCA operate within the military command relationships defined in the appropriate CONPLAN and EXORD. Sourcing of these forces follows SECDEF-approved requests for assistance (RFA) from civil authorities. Immediate Response Authority provides local commanders the ability to quickly respond to support requests in order to save lives, prevent human suffering, or mitigate great property damage under imminently serious conditions when time does not permit approval from a higher authority. Furthermore, mutual aid agreements also provide for aid and assistance to local and State governments. The Marine Corps provides forces and capabilities for DSCA through a total force effort. The National Incident Management System (NIMS), the National Response Framework (NRF), and the Incident Command System (ICS) are in effect in accordance with references (d), (e), and (f). In addition to Immediate Response Authority, Federal military commanders have "Emergency Authority," as described in reference (c); Emergency Authority deals with the authority provided to federal military commanders to quell large-scale, unexpected civil disturbances under "extraordinary emergency circumstances where prior authorization by the President is impossible and duly constituted local authorities are unable to control the situation." MARFOR commanders should familiarize themselves with this provision of reference (c), and the limited authority granted under it.

(a) Marine Corps units operate under military command and control procedures and systems, even when employed as part of a Joint Task Force in a domestic response. When they do provide DSCA, that operating environment is dominated by NIMS, NRF, ICS, but none of those documents or systems supplants or supersedes the established military chain of command or the authorities inherent therein. Familiarity with NIMS, NRF, and ICS and the associated command structures and terminology is very important for units employed in DSCA, and should be addressed as an element of appropriate training through

professional military education programs, consistent with contingency plans and military readiness.

(b) The Constitutional principle of civilian control of the military is exercised by POTUS through SECDEF. Command authorities remain within the military and flow through established chains of command to and from POTUS and SECDEF. At no time does the supported civilian agency exercise direct command and control over MARFORs.

(c) DoD Forces are employed only when local and State resources and authorities are overwhelmed. In these situations, responding units must plan and prepare to be self-sustaining to the maximum degree possible, in order to contribute to the situation as a net provider of essential services, rather than as a net consumer of already limited resources. This can be particularly challenging in that such responses are typically required with little-to-no notice prior to the EXORD.

(d) DSCA, particularly in large or catastrophic incidents crossing multiple jurisdictions and requiring response across multiple lines of operations, will almost certainly be an exceedingly complex operation. Major responses are a concerted national effort in which the Marine Corps is but one participant. It is important that Marine commanders understand and respect the needs, capabilities, jurisdictions, and authorities of the many participants in a unified, all-discipline, all-hazards response to a domestic incident, to maximize and most effectively coordinate their contributions to the supported civil authorities as part of a larger response. Furthermore, it is critical that Marines understand their own specific roles and authorities, and the limitations thereof in accordance with references (d), (e), and (g). Enclosures (2) and (3) provide further detail regarding Marine Corps roles and responsibilities in DSCA, and definitions of applicable terms.

(e) The Marine Corps also contributes to DSCA by providing Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officers (EPLOs), "highly qualified senior-level officers (O6/O5)" and reservists per reference (h), to support COMMARFORNORTH and COMMARFORPAC in coordinating Marine Corps planning and response for DSCA, maintaining effective communications, and promoting mutual understanding of capabilities and requirements. Marine EPLOs assist the attached Marine Operating Forces and service component commanders as liaison officers to the Defense Coordinating Officers (DCOs), or in other liaison duties as required by the Marine Corps service component commanders.

b. Subordinate Element Missions

(1) Deputy Commandant, Plans, Policies, & Operations (DC PP&O)

(a) Serve as the Office of Primary Responsibility for all DSCA related matters to include nominations for Base Support Installation (BSI), Incident Support Bases (ISB), or Modular Airborne Firefighting System (MAFFS) operating bases.

(b) Develop and maintain the Marine Corps doctrine, policy, and responsibilities for DSCA in accordance with reference (c).

(c) Provide Service-level policy and guidance for the Marine Corps Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officer (EPLO) program in accordance with reference (h).

(d) Assist the Joint Staff in the evaluation of the impact of requests for DSCA involving MARFORs, considering legality, lethality, risk, cost, appropriateness, and readiness.

(e) Notify the National Joint Operations and Intelligence Center (NJOIC) in accordance with reference (i) of MARFORs engaging in immediate response.

(f) In accordance with reference (h) report annually to the Department of the Navy EPLO Program Manager on Marine Corps EPLO readiness.

(2) Deputy Commandant, Programs and Resources (DC P&R)

(a) Be prepared to capture all costs incurred for directed support to civil authorities, and coordinate with Assistant Secretary of the Navy (ASN), Financial Management and Comptroller (FM&C) to report these costs to Defense Finance & Accounting Service (DFAS).

(b) Ensure that participating commands adhere to reference (j) in submitting requests for reimbursement to DFAS.

(3) Deputy Commandant, Installations & Logistics (DC I&L)

(a) Be prepared to assist DC PP&O in the verification of the capabilities of Marine Corps bases and installations to participate in BSI, ISB, or MAFFS operations.

(b) Support DC PP&O with training installation commanders in DSCA policy and execution.

(c) Manage Marine Corps Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) support to U.S. Secret Service and Department of State through Joint Force Headquarters - National Capital Region (NCR), Joint EOD Very Important Persons Protection Support Activity (VIPPSA). Routine VIPSSA missions are not tasked under the Global Force Management process because they are already approved by SECDEF.

(4) Deputy Commandant, Manpower and Reserve Affairs (DC M&RA)

(a) Provide personnel policy oversight and support for COMMARFORNORTH and COMMARFORPAC in the operational sponsorship of their respective EPLO detachments, in accordance with reference (k).

(b) Establish a Disaster Event Code in the Marine Corps Total Force System (MCTFS) to track Marines and family members evacuated in the event of a manmade or natural disaster.

(c) Establish a Crisis Code (dependent on notification and authorization from SECDEF) in MCTFS to track Reservists activated to serve as EPLOs.

(d) In coordination with DC PP&O, COMMARFORCOM, COMMARFORRES, COMMARFORNORTH, and Director, Judge Advocate Division (HQMC JAD), maintain policies and procedures for the activation of reservists under 10 U.S.C. § 12304a (reference (w)) statutory authority.

(5) Communication Directorate

(a) Coordinate with Offices of Primary Responsibility within Headquarters Marine Corps (HQMC) and outside commands and units to support Marine Corps DSCA.

(b) Assist commands and units in the development of Communication Strategy and Operations (CSO) guidance as it relates to Marine Corps DSCA.

(c) Direct CSO activities as needed, with applicable commands and units for CSO activities in Marine Corps DSCA, emphasizing a consistent strategic message on the proper context of the Marine Corps' role in DSCA.

(6) Commander, Marine Forces North (COMMARFORNORTH)

(a) Perform service component commander functions related to DSCA for Commander, U.S. Northern Command (CDRUSNORTHCOM). Coordinate with Marine Corps Installations Command (MCICOM) for use of its installations in CDRUSNORTHCOM's area of responsibility (AOR), and Training and Education Command (TECOM) through MCICOM for use of those installations under TECOM control.

(b) Plan for and conduct DSCA training and exercises with COMMARFORCOM, COMMARFORPAC and COMMCICOM for events involving Service retained, USINDOPACOM assigned, and MCICOM installations in CDRUSNORTHCOM's AOR. In accordance with reference (1), coordinate force and installation support requirements through current force synchronization processes.

(c) Ensure subordinate commanders understand their Immediate Response Authority, Emergency Authority, and reporting responsibilities in accordance with references (c) and (i).

(d) Be prepared to coordinate use of bases and installations as BSI, ISB, or MAFFS with HQMC (PP&O), COMMCICOM, and CG TECOM. Participate in the annual assessment and evaluation process for BSI, ISB, or MAFFS operations. Maintain the current version of the BSI checklist.

(e) Be prepared to coordinate use of reserve units and reserve facilities in support of USNORTHCOM DSCA operations with HQMC (PP&O), COMMARFORCOM, and COMMARFORRES.

(f) Coordinate with COMUSNAVNORTH, in conjunction with COMMARFORPAC and COMUSPACFLT, COMMARFORCOM and COMUSFLTFORCOM, for the establishment of procedures and all other operational issues concerning maritime DSCA employment under CDRUSNORTHCOM operational control.

(g) Coordinate with USNORTHCOM's Federal interagency, State, and major U.S. city partners, or with subordinate joint commands and components for support to DSCA training conducted by Marine Corps Operating Forces and installations with these agencies in CDRUSNORTHCOM's AOR. Be prepared to receive requests coordinated through current force synchronization processes, or via record message traffic for out-of-cycle events, and provide support and training guidance as required to COMMARFORCOM, COMMARFORPAC, and COMMCICOM initiated DSCA training and exercises within CDRUSNORTHCOM's AOR.

(h) Establish, and serve as operational sponsor for, an EPLO detachment, staffed by senior field grade officers drawn from MARFORRES, to

support CDRUSNORTHCOM and perform other liaison and subject-matter expertise duties as required.

1. Identify CDRUSNORTHCOM's EPLO requirements, and structure the EPLO detachment accordingly.

2. Ensure training and readiness oversight over MARFORNORTH EPLOs, when not activated. (See reference (m) for information on command relationships for EPLOs once activated.)

3. Design and implement an EPLO training program to meet CDRUSNORTHCOM's requirements, as well as the requirements imposed by reference (h).

4. Be prepared to activate, deploy, or employ MARFORNORTH EPLOs. Ensure that the Commandant of the Marine Corps (CMC) is notified, through the Marine Corps Operations Center (MCOC), of the activation of any MARFORNORTH EPLO.

5. By the close of the second quarter of each fiscal year, report to CMC via Assistant Deputy Commandant PP&O (Operations) on the status of the MARFORNORTH EPLO program; include specific EPLO assignments, manning shortfalls, equipment shortfalls, training, readiness and any other issues that affect the ability of COMMARFORNORTH to activate, deploy, or employ MARFORNORTH EPLOs.

(i) Annually review and provide recommendations to TECOM for DSCA-related instruction and professional military education within the officer and staff non-commissioned officer staff courses, and the courses for officers selected for command.

(7) Commander, Marine Forces Pacific (COMMARFORPAC)

(a) Perform service component commander functions related to DSCA for Commander, U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (CDRUSINDOPACOM), in INDOPACOM's geographic AORs. These functions include but are not limited to situation assessment, mission analysis, force sizing, sourcing and recommended force employment.

(b) Plan for and conduct DSCA training and exercises; in accordance with reference (l), focus on PACFLT naval integration and maritime response. Coordinate requested MARFORNORTH or MCICOM support through existing force synchronization processes. Coordinate through MARFORNORTH for DSCA training with USNORTHCOM's Federal interagency, major U.S. city, and other Joint partners conducted in the USNORTHCOM AOR.

(c) Ensure subordinate commanders understand their Immediate Response Authority, Emergency Authority, and reporting responsibilities in accordance with references (c) and (i).

(d) Be prepared to participate in the assessment and evaluation process for BSI, ISB, or MAFFS operations.

(e) Establish, and serve as operational sponsor for, an EPLO detachment, staffed by senior field grade officers drawn from MARFORRES, to support CDRUSINDOPACOM and perform other liaison and subject-matter expertise duties as required.

1. Identify CDRUSINDOPACOM's EPLO requirements, and structure the EPLO detachment accordingly.

2. Ensure training and readiness oversight over MARFORPAC EPLOs, when not activated. (See reference (m) for information on command relationships for EPLOs once activated.)

3. Design and implement an EPLO training program to meet CDRUSINDOPACOM's requirements, as well as the requirements imposed by reference (h).

4. Be prepared to activate, deploy or employ MARFORPAC EPLOs. Ensure that CMC is notified, through the MCOC, of the activation of any MARFORPAC EPLO.

5. By the close of the second quarter of each fiscal year, report to CMC via Assistant Deputy Commandant PP&O (Operations) on the status of the MARFORPAC EPLO program; include specific EPLO assignments, manning shortfalls, equipment shortfalls, training, readiness and any other issues that affect the ability of COMMARFORPAC to activate, deploy, or employ MARFORPAC EPLOs.

(8) Commander, Marine Forces Command (COMMARFORCOM)

(a) Provide for the identification and sourcing of MARFORs for the execution of DSCA missions as assigned.

(b) Ensure subordinate commanders understand their Immediate Response Authority, Emergency Authority, and reporting responsibilities in accordance with references (c) and (i).

(c) Plan for and conduct DSCA training and exercises; in accordance with reference (l), focus on USFLTFORCOM naval integration and maritime response. Coordinate requested MARFORNORTH or MCICOM support through current force synchronization processes. Coordinate through MARFORNORTH for DSCA training with USNORTHCOM's Federal interagency, major U.S. city, and other Joint partners conducted in the USNORTHCOM AOR.

(d) Coordinate with COMUSFLTFORCOM, in conjunction with COMMARFORNORTH and COMNAVNORTH, for the establishment of procedures and other operational issues concerning maritime DSCA.

(e) Ensure that geographic proximity is one consideration, but not the primary consideration, in sourcing forces for DSCA responses during complex catastrophes.

(9) Commander, Marine Forces Reserve (COMMARFORRES)

(a) Provide support to COMMARFORNORTH and COMMARFORPAC with the identification and selection of personnel to fill billets in the Individual Mobilization Augmentee detachments of their Tables of Organization that support their respective EPLO programs.

(b) Ensure subordinate commanders understand their Immediate Response Authority, Emergency Authority, and reporting responsibilities in accordance with references (c) and (i).

(c) In coordination with DC PP&O, DC M&RA, COMMARFORCOM, COMMARFORNORTH, and Director, HQMC JAD, establish policies and procedures for the activation of reservists under 10 U.S.C. § 12304a statutory authority.

(d) Coordinate use of reserve facilities in support of USNORTHCOM DSCA operations with CMC (DC PP&O), COMMARFORNORTH, and COMMCICOM/DC I&L (as appropriate).

(10) Commander, Marine Corps Recruiting Command. Support the screening and recruiting of candidates for the MARFORNORTH and MARFORPAC EPLO programs, in accordance with reference (k).

(11) Commander, Marine Corps National Capital Region Command (MCNCR)

(a) Provide Phase 0 planning support to Joint Force Headquarters National Capital Region (JFHQ-NCR) related to DSCA execution when JFHQ-NCR is designated Joint Task Force-National Capital Region (JTF-NCR). Keep COMMARFORNORTH informed of any potential Marine Corps equity in the NCR.

(b) In coordination with COMMARFORNORTH, develop potential Marine Corps capability requirements for submission by JFHQ-NCR/JTF-NCR through CDRUSNORTHCOM in support of an all-hazards NCR mission.

(c) When designated by CMC and augmented with a command element staff and other appropriate resources for mission execution, support Commander JTF-NCR DSCA operations, as Commander MARFOR-NCR.

(d) Develop staff requirements necessary to support JTF-NCR during a catastrophic incident in conjunction with COMMARFORNORTH.

(e) Ensure subordinate commanders understand their Immediate Response Authority, Emergency Authority, and reporting responsibilities in accordance with references (c) and (i).

(f) Be prepared to participate in the assessment and evaluation process for BSI or ISB.

(12) Commander, Marine Corps Installations Command (COMMCICOM)

(a) Ensure subordinate regional installation commanders verify that installation mutual aid agreements (MAAs) are:

1. Upon legal review, consistent with applicable DSCA laws and regulations, and the NIMS, the NRF, and the ICS.

2. Consistent with national security objectives, military preparedness, and the execution of the national military strategy, including compatibility with contingency plans for national security emergencies.

(b) Plan for and conduct DSCA training and exercises. In accordance with reference (1), coordinate MCICOM external support requirements through current force synchronization processes. Coordinate training of installation commanders in responding to civilian requests under Mutual Aid Agreements or under Immediate Response Authority and Emergency Authority.

(c) Provide for the coordination and execution of mutual aid across MCI regions and DoD installations for mission assurance and the protection of defense critical infrastructure in extreme or exceptional circumstances, recognizing the following:

1. A significant component of any installation's response and recovery capability is typically based upon MAAs.

2. Catastrophic incidents do not respect jurisdictional boundaries. Marine Corps installations may find that their need for mission-critical mutual aid coincides with minimum availability of response units, as a catastrophic incident draws response and recovery capabilities from surrounding communities to the priorities of their owning agencies.

3. Catastrophic incidents may coincide with national security emergencies that demand military priorities be placed on the execution of contingency plans. Reference (g) provides further detail.

(d) Conduct the annual assessment and evaluation process for the use of Marine Corps installations as BSI by DoD elements for DSCA operations, or as ISB for another Federal agency conducting support to civil authorities, or for MAFFS operations in support of wildland firefighting. (The installations to be assessed include those under Commanding General, TECOM.) Annual assessments will be completed no later than 30 May, prior to the onset of wild fire and hurricane seasons. Ensure subordinate installations use the current BSI checklist maintained by MARFORNORTH G-4.

(e) Ensure subordinate regional commanders understand their Immediate Response Authority, Emergency Authority, and reporting responsibilities.

(13) Director, Judge Advocate Division (HQMC JAD)

(a) Provide legal advice to DC PP&O, and other HQMC entities, on laws, policies, and regulations governing DSCA, to include assisting in the preparation of training materials.

(b) Provide legal advice on the proper use of reservists in DSCA operations.

(c) Provide support to MARFORNORTH and MARFORPAC SJAs as required on all aspects of DSCA.

c. Coordinating Instructions

(1) Commanders authorizing Marine Corps personnel and assets for Immediate Response Authority or Emergency Authority (or both) notify the MCOC via appropriate command channels within one hour of such authorization. In addition, notify the MARFORNORTH or MARFORPAC operations center, as appropriate, in order to effect prompt notification of the appropriate geographical combatant commander (CCDR). References (i) and (n) provide further guidance on reporting requirements and procedures, but timeliness supersedes proper formatting. Be sure to state clearly that Marine Corps units are providing pursuant to Immediate Response Authority or Emergency Authority, describe the circumstances of the response, the means by which the unit is responding, and in the case of Immediate Response Authority, the

commander's assessment of whether or not the situation will likely conclude within 72 hours.

(2) Track all expenditures incurred in the execution of DSCA. Submit for reimbursement to DC P&R through the chain of command.

(3) Commands receiving requests for assistance from civil authorities not meeting the established criteria for the use of Immediate Response Authority or Emergency Authority must inform the MCOC through the chain of command, of the nature of the request and an estimate of supportability, including impact on operational readiness if request is approved.

(4) In the event of an incident, account for all DoD personnel for which an affected Marine Corps organization has responsibility. Recent experiences have demonstrated that prompt and accurate accountability of personnel is a critical task during an incident. Reference (o) provides guidance and imposes requirements on military activities to gain and report personnel accountability. All commands are hereby directed to review the reference and implement its provisions accordingly.

(5) All Marine Corps domestic installations will adopt and implement primary base incident management procedures consistent with NIMS, NRF, and ICS, in order to comply with references (f) and (g). Procedures will be designed in such a manner to facilitate inter-operability and coordination within the ICS framework.

(6) MARFORs providing DSCA will not carry individual weapons unless authorized by SECDEF, in accordance with reference (m). In order to comply with the reference (m), commanders of Marine Corps units and detachments must evaluate their ability to store individual weapons at or near the deployed location which allows reasonable access to the weapons if the situation dictates and is authorized by the SECDEF. If weapons storage is impractical or provides little benefit due to access, supported COMMARFORs may waive the requirement to deploy with individual weapons.

(7) Reference (p) establishes Standing Rules for Use of Force (SRUF) for DSCA. CCDRs may restrict or augment the SRUF based on mission analysis. Commanders retain the inherent right and obligation to exercise unit self-defense in response to a hostile act or demonstrated hostile intent. See reference (p) for specifics on self-defense.

(8) Contact MARFORNORTH G-4 to obtain the current BSI checklist for use in assessment and evaluation.

(9) Reference (v) establishes policy for the use of DoD unmanned aerial systems in the U.S., with specific permissions and prohibitions on use in DSCA operations. All COMMARFORs are directed to ensure compliance under that policy.

5. Administration and Logistics

a. Records Management. Records created as a result of this Order shall be managed according to National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)-approved dispositions per references (z) and (aa) to ensure the proper maintenance, use, accessibility and preservation, regardless of format or medium. Refer to reference (ab) for Marine Corps records management policy and procedures.

b. Privacy Act. Any misuse or unauthorized disclosure of personally identifiable information (PII) may result in both civil and criminal penalties. The Department of the Navy (DON) recognizes that the privacy of an individual is a personal and fundamental right that shall be respected and protected. The DON's need to collect, use, maintain, or disseminate PII about individuals for purposes of discharging its statutory responsibilities will be balanced against the individuals' right to be protected against unwarranted invasion of privacy. All collection, use, maintenance, or dissemination of PII will be in accordance with references (ac) and (ad).

6. Command and Signal

a. Command. This Order is applicable to the Marine Corps Total Force, and is effective the date signed.

b. Signal. In case of any employment of Marine Corps units or personnel in Immediate Response Authority or Emergency Authority, make notification of same through the chain of command to the National Joint Operations and Intelligence Center in accordance with references (c) and (h).



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References

- (a) 32 U.S.C.
- (b) DoD Strategy for Homeland Defense and Defense Support of Civil Authorities, February 2013
- (c) DOD Directive 3025.18 CH 2, "Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA)," December 29, 2010
- (d) National Incident Management System (NIMS), October 2017
- (e) National Response Framework (NRF), May 2013
- (f) DEPSECDEF Memo, "Implementing NRP/NIMS," November 29, 2005 (NOTAL)
- (g) DoD Instruction 6055.17 CH 2, "DoD Emergency Management (EM) Program," August 31, 2018
- (h) DoD Instruction 3025.23, "Domestic Defense Liaison with Civil Authorities," May 25, 2016
- (i) DEPSECDEF Memo, "Reporting Immediate Response Requirements from Civil Authorities," April 25, 2005 (NOTAL)
- (j) DoD 7000.14-R, Volume 11A, "Reimbursable Operations Policy," November 2014
- (k) MCO 1001.62B
- (l) MCO 3120.12
- (m) STANDING CJCS DSCA EXORD
- (n) MCO 3504.2A
- (o) DoD Instruction 3001.02, "Personnel Accountability in Conjunction with Natural or Manmade Disasters," May 3, 2010
- (p) CJCS Instruction 3121.01B (S) (NOTAL)
- (q) 42 U.S.C. 5121
- (r) 31 U.S.C. 1535
- (s) DoD Instruction 3025.21 CH 1, "Defense Support of Civilian Law Enforcement Agencies," February 8, 2019
- (t) DoD Instruction 6055.06, "DOD Fire and Emergency Services (F&ES) Program," August 31, 2018
- (u) MCO 5500.6H W/CH 1
- (v) DEPSECDEF Memo, "Guidance for the Domestic Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems in U.S. National Airspace," August 18, 2018
- (w) 10 U.S.C. 12304a
- (x) 10 U.S.C. 12301d
- (y) Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act
- (z) SECNAV M-5210.1
- (aa) SECNAV Notice 5210
- (ab) MCO 5210.11F
- (ac) 5 U.S.C. 552a
- (ad) SECNAVINST 5211.5E

USMC Roles and Missions in Homeland Defense and Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA)

1. Homeland Defense and DSCA

a. Defending the U.S. homeland is a comprehensive interagency effort; there is no single Federal department or agency solely responsible for keeping the homeland secure against all threats. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is responsible for protecting the nation's borders, ports and territorial seas; working with the public and private sectors to reduce vulnerabilities; and preparing the nation to respond quickly and decisively to terrorist attacks. The Department of Justice (DOJ), to include the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), is focused on apprehending suspected terrorists who have penetrated the U.S. borders. DoD, when directed by POTUS or SECDEF, undertakes military missions at home to defend the U.S., its population, and its infrastructure from attack. Additionally, DoD provides DSCA when civilian resources are overwhelmed or when civilian agencies are faced with challenges necessitating the utilization of DoD's particular capabilities.

b. The Marine Corps contributes to Homeland Defense (HD) as a Total Force, trained as the Nation's premier expeditionary combat force-in-readiness. The Marine Corps performs HD by operating from forward deployed locations throughout the world. We exploit the speed, flexibility, and agility inherent to our combined-arms approach to defeat traditional, terrorist, and emerging threats to our Nation's security. When directed by POTUS or SECDEF, the Marine Corps will use its expeditionary capabilities to respond rapidly to a threat in the homeland, whether the threat is from nature, such as a hurricane, or from the action of others such as terrorist events. It is important to emphasize that defense of the homeland begins not only on our shores, but on far shores as part of a collaborative interagency defense-in-depth. Within the U.S., the Marine Corps, under existing statutes and directives, and operating under military command structure, supports and assists civil authorities as required.

2. Statutes and Directives

a. The National Response Framework. The NRF, reference (e), is built on the template of the NIMS, reference (d), which provides a consistent doctrinal framework for incident management at all jurisdictional levels, regardless of the cause, size, or complexity of the incident. The purpose of the NRF is to align Federal coordination structures, capabilities, and resources into a unified, all discipline, and all-hazards approach to domestic incident management. This approach is unique and far reaching in that it is an effort to eliminate critical seams and tie together the complete spectrum of incident management activities to include the prevention of, preparedness for, response to, and recovery from terrorism, major natural disasters, and other major emergencies. An integral part of NIMS is the ICS, the first responder construct for staff functions during a response to a domestic incident.

b. Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. The Stafford Act (reference (q)) authorizes the Federal government to help State and local governments alleviate the suffering and damage caused by disasters. This act provides authority for disaster preparedness, Presidential grants for planning, Presidential declarations of major disaster or emergency, formation of immediate support teams, reimbursement to agencies (including

DoD), major disaster assistance programs to help State and local governments mitigate the suffering and damage caused by disasters, emergencies, and other incidents.

c. Economy Act. The Economy Act (reference (r)) provides guidance for the reimbursement of costs incurred by one Federal agency as a result of the support provided to another Federal agency. Prior to declaration of a major disaster or emergency under the Stafford Act, most DoD support will be in accordance with the Economy Act, which generally requires full reimbursement of all DoD costs, including personnel pay and allowances. Post-declaration funding, in accordance with the Stafford Act, normally captures only incremental costs.

d. Posse Comitatus Act. DSCA does not authorize direct support to civilian law enforcement agencies. The Posse Comitatus Act and statutorily required DoD policies (including reference (s)) prohibit DoD personnel from direct, active participation in enforcing civil law, unless specifically authorized under the Constitution or by statute. Indirect support to civilian law enforcement agencies, however, is permissible subject to appropriate approvals. Such support includes use of facilities, training, advice, and maintenance and operation of equipment. Such support is appropriate as long as DoD personnel do not directly engage in traditional law enforcement roles, such as search, seizure, and arrest.

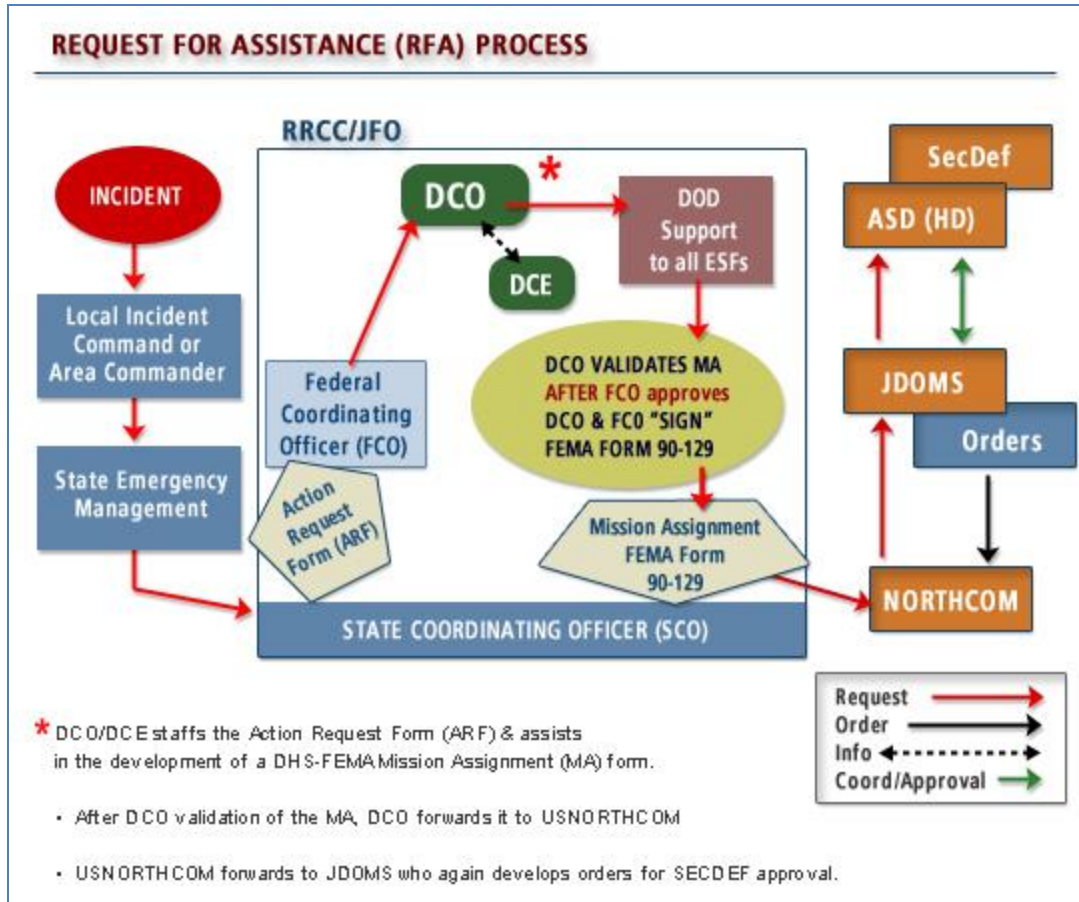
e. Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA). Reference (c) establishes the overall policy and guidance for DSCA.

f. CCDR DSCA Concept Plans (CONPLAN). The CONPLANS of the geographic CCDRs provide guidance for support to civil authorities within their respective AORs. They address support requirements, task organization, command relationships, and interagency coordination.

g. Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff DSCA Execute Order (EXORD). This standing document (reference (m)), updated annually, sets forth the framework of resources and authorities provided to a supported CCDR for the conduct of DSCA operations. A primary tenet of this EXORD is that employment of resources for DSCA must not interfere with the primary DoD mission unless otherwise directed by POTUS or SECDEF.

3. Federal Response to a Domestic Incident

a. There are five primary mechanisms by which DoD takes part in a Federal response to a domestic incident. Federal assistance, including assistance from DoD, can be provided: (1) at the direction of POTUS; (2) at the request of local civil authorities under MAAs; (3) at the request of another Federal agency under the Economy Act, reference (r); (4) in response to a request from DHS's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) following a declaration of a national disaster or emergency under the Stafford Act, reference (q); or (5) under the DoD Immediate Response Authority or Emergency Authority of reference (i).



NOTE: References to "NORTHCOM" and "USNORTHCOM" can also refer to "INDOPACOM" and "USINDOPACOM")

Figure 1-1.--Request for Assistance (RFA) Process.

b. The third and fourth mechanisms above require an RFA, see figure 1-1 above. DoD provides DSCA as directed by POTUS or SECDEF in response to an RFA. The SECDEF or his designated representative is the approval authority for all requests for DSCA. Receipt, validation, and approval of an RFA are required prior to employment of those forces or assets identified in the Chairman Joint Chief of Staff (CJCS) DSCA EXORD. (Exceptions are identified in the EXORD.) Prior to being submitted for approval each RFA is evaluated by the Office of the SECDEF and the Joint Staff using the following six criteria:

- (1) LEGALITY (compliance with the law)
- (2) LETHALITY (Potential for the use of lethal force by or against DoD Forces)
- (3) RISK (Safety of DoD Forces)
- (4) COST (including the source of the funding and the effect on DoD budget)

(5) APPROPRIATENESS (Whether the requested mission is in the interest of the DoD to conduct)

(6) READINESS (Impact on the DoD's ability to perform its primary mission (training impact, maintenance issues, operational missions))

4. Immediate Response Authority. In response to a request for assistance (RFA) from a civil authority, under imminently serious conditions and if time does not permit approval from higher authority, Marine Corps commanders may provide an immediate response by temporarily employing the resources under their control, subject to any supplemental direction provided by higher headquarters, to save lives, prevent human suffering, or mitigate great property damage within the U.S. Immediate Response Authority does not permit actions that would subject civilians to the use of military power that is regulatory, prescriptive, proscriptive, or compulsory.

a. The Marine commander directing a response under Immediate Response Authority shall immediately notify the National Joint Operations and Intelligence Center (NJOIC), through the chain of command to the MCOC, of the details of the response. The NJOIC will inform appropriate DoD Components, including the geographic CCMD.

b. An immediate response shall end when the necessity giving rise to the response is no longer present (e.g., when there are sufficient resources available from State, local, and other Federal agencies to respond adequately and that agency or department has initiated response activities) or when the initiating Marine commander or a higher authority directs an end to the response. The Marine commander directing a response under Immediate Response Authority shall reassess whether there remains a necessity for the DoD to respond under this authority as soon as practicable but, if immediate response activities have not yet ended, not later than 72 hours after the RFA was received.

c. Support provided under Immediate Response Authority should be provided on a cost-reimbursable basis, where appropriate or legally required, but will not be delayed or denied based on the inability or unwillingness of the requester to make a commitment to reimburse the DoD.

d. Immediate Response Authority does not relieve the commander from the responsibility of evaluating criteria of the request for legality, lethality, risk, cost, appropriateness, and readiness. In addition, the time and distance to incident sites should be considered for evaluation in Immediate Response Authority.

e. Immediate Response Authority is very limited and should be invoked only for *bona fide* emergencies. Immediate Response Authority should not be construed as an enduring support mechanism, or as a form of RFA. Commanders must, in conjunction with the civilian authority being supported, determine a termination and transition plan to end the operations conducted under immediate response, see figure 1-2 below.

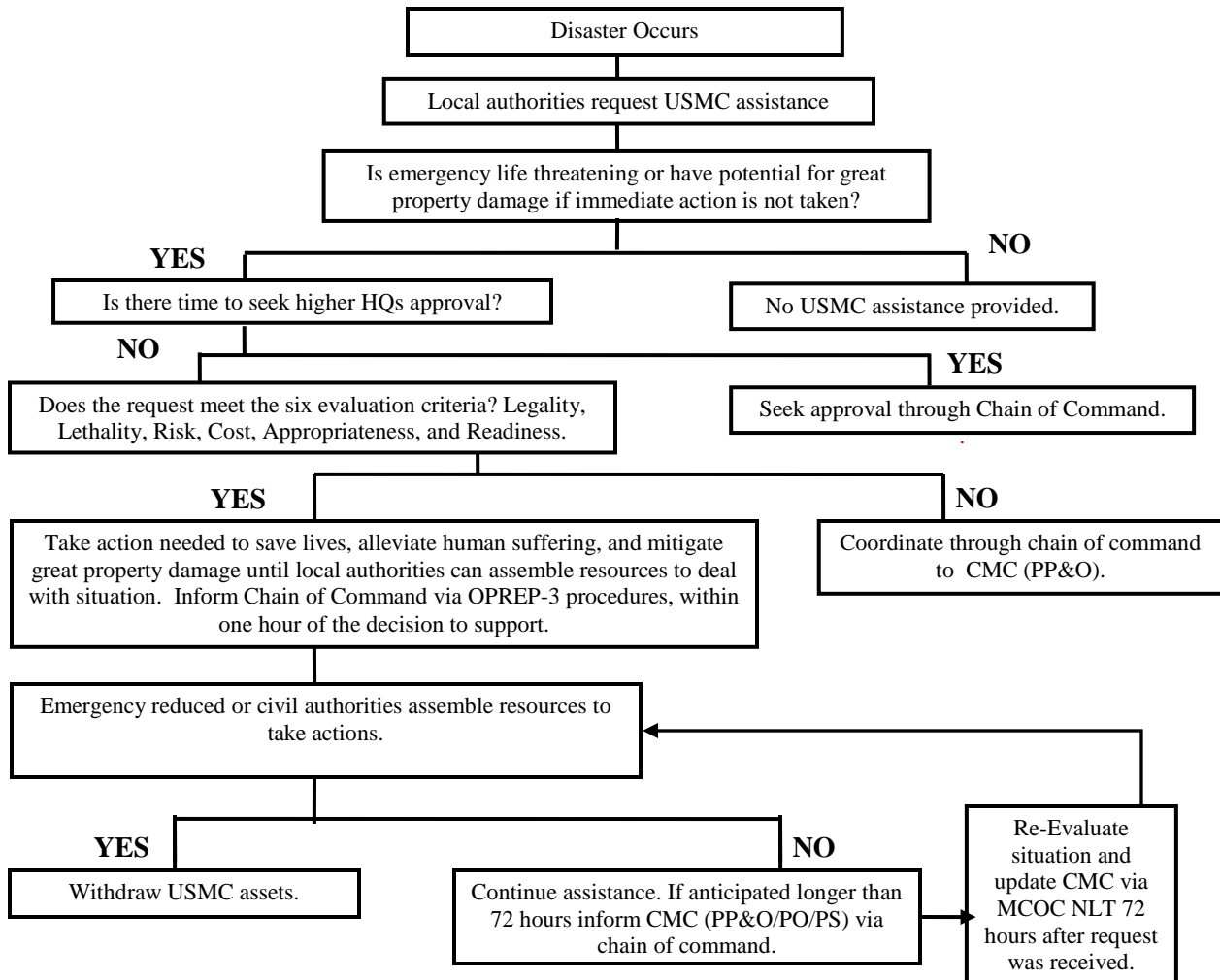


Figure 1-2.--Decision Process for Non Declared Disaster.

This termination and transition plan should be developed in the initial phase of immediate response so that all organizations involved understand the limited scope of the support provided. The commander providing immediate response should seek guidance from his higher headquarters on terminating immediate response operations. The higher headquarters will coordinate with DC PP&O via the MARFOR commander, who will engage the respective geographic CCDR on ramifications of termination or continued support. If the joint field office has been established and the Marine EPLO has arrived, this coordination should go through the EPLO.

f. Commanders must gain an understanding of those conditions in which immediate response should either be terminated or shifted to the established RFA process. These include, but are not limited to: the arrival of the DCO; the ability of local or State assets to provide the support; and higher priority DoD mission requirements. Commanders must exercise prudent judgment when executing and terminating immediate response support. An additional consideration for commanders when evaluating a RFA to civilian authorities under immediate response authority is that, per references (i) and (s), military forces will neither support domestic civilian authorities by engaging in direct law enforcement activities (e.g., search, seizure, and

arrest, or other similar law enforcement activity) nor will military equipment that has a potential for lethality be loaned to civilian authorities without approval of the SECDEF. All requests for intelligence support will be in accordance with existing intelligence oversight regulations and public laws, and therefore, not be provided under Immediate Response Authority.

g. In accordance with ref (r), Explosive Ordnance Disposal personnel may provide Immediate Response for support to civil authorities. Such an Immediate Response may include actions to provide advice and assistance to civil authorities in the mitigation, rendering safe, and disposition of suspected or detected presence of unexploded ordnance, damaged or deteriorated explosives or munitions, an improvised explosive device, other potentially explosive material or device, or other potentially harmful military chemical munitions or device, that creates an actual or potential imminent threat.

5. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). A MOU is a document that describes very broad concepts of mutual understanding, goals, and plans shared by the parties. In contrast, a MOA is a document describing in detail the specific responsibilities of, and actions to be taken by, each of the parties so that their goals may be accomplished. A MOA may also indicate the goals of the parties, to help explain their actions and responsibilities. Every Marine Corps MOU and MOA must be consistent with the Marine Corps mission and be authorized by Federal law, regulations, and funding constraints. Additionally, the existence of a MOU or MOA does not eliminate or diminish the need for supporting contracts, documents, or agreements to execute the activities contemplated by the parties. A MOU or MOA cannot be used as the sole authority or means to acquire or procure goods or services, exchange funds or property, or transfer or assign personnel.

6. Mutual Aid Agreements. It is both essential and increasingly commonplace for civil authorities to address homeland security concerns and enhance preparedness through the coordination and sharing of capabilities with other jurisdictions via MAAs. (In accordance with reference (t) and under Chapter 15A of 42 U.S.C., installation commanders may enter into reciprocal agreements with local fire protection agencies for mutual fire and emergency services.) It is important to note that Operating Forces shall not enter into any agreements to provide forces or capabilities.

7. Standing Rules for the Use of Force (SRUF). Prior to performing a DSCA mission, commanders and their Marines must know the SRUF which govern the actions to be taken by commanders and their Marines during all DSCA missions occurring within U.S. territory or U.S. territorial seas. Reference (u) specifically governs the carrying of firearms by Marine Corps personnel engaged in law enforcement and security duties. Reference (p) governs use of deadly force and the actions taken by DoD Forces performing DSCA missions within the U.S. territory.

a. Per reference (p) unit commanders always retain the inherent right and obligation to exercise unit self-defense in response to a hostile act or demonstrated hostile intent. Unit self-defense includes the defense of other DoD Forces in the vicinity.

b. Given the nature of HD and DSCA, SRUF are generally more restrictive than Rules of Engagement (ROE) used during combat operations. Normally, force is to be used only as a last resort, and the force used should be the

minimum necessary. It is recommended that commanders involve their Staff Judge Advocate (SJA) when developing and providing SRUF training.

c. CCDRs may restrict or augment the SRUF as necessary by submitting requests for mission-specific RUF to the CJCS for SECDEF approval.

d. It is imperative DoD Forces operating in coordination with the lead Federal agency law enforcement personnel coordinate with on-scene LFA personnel to ensure common understanding of DoD SRUF.

8. Individual Weapons Policy

a. Marines normally train, deploy, and employ with their individual weapons. Employment of MARFORs in the non-traditional tasks within the DSCA construct may raise questions about individual weapons. References (m), (p), (s), and (u) impose limitations to the employment of Marines within the homeland and the use of force.

b. The CJCS DSCA EXORD identifies restrictions on the support that can be provided by Title 10 active duty military personnel and further states that, "Military personnel are not authorized to carry individual service weapons unless authorized by SECDEF." This is a more restrictive policy than is stated in reference (p).

c. Commanders should not construe this policy as a directive to abdicate their responsibility to protect Marines should there be a threat. Because the DSCA mission is conducted within the area of the U.S., its territories and possessions, commanders must understand that in the absence of a Presidential directive, any activities involving the security of Marines and equipment during the conduct of DSCA have legal implications and are the responsibility of the Federal, State, and local law enforcement. Security while executing DSCA missions is a law enforcement activity and commanders must coordinate through their chain of command with the civilian agencies they are supporting for the appropriate security measures to be implemented.

9. Marine Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officer (EPLO)

a. The EPLOs assist the attached Marine Operating Forces and service component commanders as liaison officers to the DCOs or other liaison duties as required by the Marine Corps service component commanders. Per reference (l), EPLOs are military department assets that may be activated and employed by their military department secretaries in a DSCA contingency role. (Reference (m) also delineates command relationships for EPLOs, once activated for service.) The Marine Corps provides Marine EPLOs to support COMMARFORNORTH and COMMARFORPAC in coordinating Marine Corps planning and response for DSCA, maintaining effective communications, and promoting mutual understanding of capabilities and requirements. COMMARFORNORTH and COMMARFORPAC shall identify specific billet requirements for Marine EPLOs for their AORs. Marine EPLO billets shall be filled by reserve Marine officers, grade O5 and O6, drawn from MARFORRES. Although reference (h) authorizes each service both regional and state EPLOs, it is Marine Corps policy to provide only regional EPLOs.

b. Commanders USNORTHCOM and USINDOPACOM request EPLO activation through their Service components. COMMARFORNORTH and COMMARFORPAC submit activation requests for Marine EPLOs under 10 U.S.C. 12304a (reference (w)) authority to DC M&RA (Manpower Management Integration Branch (MMIB-2)) for Secretary of

the Navy (SECNAV) approval to activate EPLOs. After SECNAV authorizes activation, DC M&RA (MMIB-2) initiates orders, which COMMARFORRES then authenticates. COMMARFORNORTH and COMMARFORPAC provide the activated EPLOs reporting instructions relating to their duties. The MCOC must be notified of any EPLO activation. (Unless prohibited by SECDEF, an EPLO may volunteer under 10 U.S.C. 12301d (reference (x)) authority in lieu of activation under 10 U.S.C. 12304a (reference (w)) if doing so allows for more rapid response to validated CCDR requests.)

10. Base Support Installations and Incident Support Bases (ISBs)

a. DoD Installations can be used to support emergency response as BSIs, or as ISBs. The two differ in that a BSI is for use by military forces performing DSCA, whereas an ISB is for use by non-military Federal organizations in emergency operations. The supported CCDR can designate an installation as a BSI or ISB after gaining concurrence from the owning military service. The Services, in coordination with supported CCDRs, retain authority for support provided at designated installations in order to avoid adverse impact on the installation commander's priority missions. If required, the supported CCDR will submit a request for any Joint Reception, Staging, Onward movement and Integration (JRSOI) capabilities, including logistics and operational Forces not resident at a designated BSI, to compensate for BSI capability shortfalls.

b. In response to a CDRUSNORTHCOM or CDRUSINDOPACOM request for information on a Marine Corps installation's capabilities, COMMARFORNORTH or COMMARFORPAC will coordinate the request with MCICOM while informing HQMC (DC PP&O and DC I&L). After working hours, coordination with HQMC will be via the MCOC.

c. MCICOM will advise DC PP&O if a BSI nomination is supportable, and PP&O, Operations Division (PO) will coordinate a recommendation for CMC's approval, including a legal review by HQMC JAD. PP&O (PO) will inform COMMARFORNORTH or COMMARFORPAC of CMC's decision to concur or non-concur with the nomination, and COMMARFORNORTH or COMMARFORPAC will forward the decision to CDRUSNORTHCOM or CDRUSINDOPACOM, as appropriate. Marine Corps concurrence to the designation of an installation as a BSI/ISB is concurrence to support only those requirements specified in the CCDR's request. Support neither includes, nor extends to, other unspecified capabilities or access to installation and tenant commands. PP&O (PO) will be HQMC lead for engaging the Joint Staff if the Marine Corps non-concurs with the nomination.

11. Employment of Reserves

a. Secretary of Defense authority to involuntarily recall members of the Marine Corps Ready Reserve, including the Selected Reserve, is provided under 10 U.S.C. § 12304a (reference (w)), although the specific means by which reservists are brought on duty and paid is left to the discretion of the military departments and Services. Individual reservists may be ordered to active duty with their consent (i.e., voluntary recall), and have historically volunteered to serve during emergencies.

b. Planning for reserve participation in DSCA must take into account certain factors particular to the reserves, which have a direct bearing on the ability of reserve units to mobilize, organize, and respond. Reserve unit leaders often live at considerable distances from their units. They can be expected to require time to travel and may experience incident-related

delays when reporting for duty. Many reserve unit members, including leaders residing locally, are employed as civilian first responders and have clearly identified duties in an incident response which might conflict with their orders to mobilize. Reserve training centers, and their tenant units, might be rendered non-mission capable by an incident, and therefore unable to provide support to the response, or effective immediate response.

c. From a resources perspective, Reserve Training Centers only reflect a Training Allowance (TA) of equipment and are severely limited in terms of high value, low density end-items, and maintenance-intensive assets (radios, chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear (CBRN) gear, motor transport, etc.). TA limitations have direct impact on operational command and control (C2), mobility, medical support, maintenance, sustainment, and other key mission functions should the reserve unit be required to operate directly from a Reserve Training Center.

Glossary

1. Agency. A division of government with a specific function offering a particular kind of assistance. In the ICS, agencies are defined as either a jurisdictional (having statutory responsibility for incident management) or as assisting or cooperating (providing resources or other assistance).
2. Agency Representative. A person assigned by a primary, assisting, or cooperating Federal, State, local, or tribal government agency or private entity that has been delegated authority to make decisions affecting that agency's or entity's participation in incident management activities following appropriate consultation with the leadership of that agency.
3. Base Support Installation (BSI). A DoD Service or agency installation within the U.S. and its territories tasked to serve as a base for military forces engaged in either homeland defense or DSCA.
4. Civil Authorities. Those elected and appointed officers and employees who constitute the government of the U.S., the governments of the 50 states, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, U.S. territories, and political subdivisions thereof.
5. Combatant Command (CCMD). A unified or specified command with a broad continuing mission under a single commander established and so designated by POTUS through SECDEF and with the advice and assistance of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.
6. Combatant Commander (CCDR). A commander of one of the unified or specified CCMDs established by POTUS.
7. Complex Catastrophe. Any natural or man-made incident, including cyberspace attack, power grid failure, and terrorism, which results in cascading failures of multiple, interdependent, critical, life-sustaining infrastructure sectors and caused extraordinary levels of mass casualties, damage, or disruption severely affecting the population, environment, economy, public health, national morale, response efforts, and/or government functions.
8. Defense Coordinating Officer (DCO). DoD single point of contact for domestic emergencies who is assigned to a joint field office to process requirements for military support, forward mission assignments through proper channels to the appropriate military organizations, and assign military liaisons, as appropriate, to activated emergency support functions.
9. Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA). Support provided by U.S. Federal Military Forces, DoD civilians, DoD contract personnel, DoD component assets, and National Guard Forces (when the SECDEF, in coordination with the governors of the affected states, elects and requests to use those Forces in Title 32, United States Code (reference (a)), status) in response to requests for assistance from civil authorities for domestic emergencies, law enforcement support, and other domestic activities, or from qualifying entities for special events. Also known as civil support.
10. Domestic Emergencies. Civil defense emergencies, civil disturbances, major disasters, or natural disasters affecting the public welfare and occurring within the U.S. and its territories.

11. Emergency Authority. A Federal military commander's authority, in extraordinary circumstances where prior authorization by POTUS is impossible and duly constituted local authorities are unable to control the situation, to engage temporarily in activities that are necessary to quell large-scale, unexpected civil disturbances because:

a. Such activities are necessary to prevent significant loss of life or wanton destruction of property and are necessary to restore governmental function and public order or;

b. Duly constituted Federal, State, or local authorities are unable or decline to provide adequate protection for Federal property or Federal government functions.

12. Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO). The Federal officer who is appointed to manage Federal resource support activities related to Stafford Act (reference (y)) disasters and emergencies. The FCO is responsible for coordinating the timely delivery of Federal disaster assistance resources and programs to the affected State and local governments, individual victims, and the private sector.

13. Homeland. The physical region that includes the continental U.S., Alaska, Hawaii, U.S. territories, and surrounding territorial waters and airspace.

14. Homeland Defense (HD). The protection of U.S. sovereignty, territory, domestic population, and critical infrastructure against external threats and aggression or other threats as directed by POTUS. (The DoD is responsible for homeland defense. The Department recognizes that threats planned or inspired by "external" actors may materialize internally. The reference to "external threats" does not limit where or how attacks could be planned or executed. The Department is prepared to conduct homeland defense missions wherever POTUS, exercising his/her Constitutional authority as Commander in Chief, authorizes military actions.)

15. Homeland Security (HS). A concerted national effort to prevent terrorist attacks within the U.S.; reduce America's vulnerability to terrorism, major disasters, and other emergencies; and minimize the damage and recover from attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies that occur.

16. Immediate Response. Any form of immediate action taken in the U.S. and territories to save lives, prevent human suffering, or mitigate great property damage in response to a RFA from a civil authority, under imminently serious conditions when time does not permit approval from a higher authority.

17. Immediate Response Authority. A Federal military commander's, DoD component head's, or responsible DoD civilian official's authority temporarily to employ resources under their control, subject to any supplemental direction provided by higher headquarters, and provide those resources for an Immediate Response. Immediate Response Authority does not permit actions that would subject civilians to the use of military power that is regulatory, prescriptive, proscriptive, or compulsory.

18. Incident Support Base (ISB). An ISB is a designated site where response materials, equipment, and personnel are temporarily received, pre-positioned, and shipped for further distribution and deployment.

19. Lead Federal Agency (LFA). The federal agency that leads and coordinates the overall federal response to an emergency. (Designation and responsibilities of a LFA vary according to the type of emergency and the agency's statutory authority. Also called primary agency (PA), or primary federal agency (PFA).)
20. Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). Memorandums that define general areas of conditional agreement between two or more parties -- what one party does depends on what the other party does (e.g., one party agrees to provide support if the other party provides the materials). MOAs that establish responsibilities for providing recurring reimbursable support should be supplemented with support agreements that define the support, basis for reimbursement for each category of support, the billing and payment process, and other terms and conditions of the agreement.
21. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Memorandums that define general areas of understanding between two or more parties - explains what each party plans to do; however, what each party does is not dependent on what the other party does (e.g., does not require reimbursement or other support from receiver).
22. Mission Assignment. The vehicle used by the Department of Homeland Security/Emergency Preparedness and Response/Federal Emergency Management Agency to support federal operations in a Stafford Act (reference (y)) major disaster or emergency declaration that orders immediate, short-term emergency response assistance when an applicable state or local government is overwhelmed by the event and lacks the capability to perform, or contract for, the necessary work.
23. Mission Assurance. A process to ensure that assigned tasks or duties can be performed in accordance with the intended purpose or plan. It is a summation of the activities and measures taken to ensure that required capabilities and all supporting infrastructures are available to the DoD to carry out the National Military Strategy. It links numerous risk management program activities and security-related functions, such as force protection; antiterrorism; critical infrastructure protection; information assurance; continuity of operations; CBRN, and high explosive defense; readiness; and installation preparedness to create the synergy required for the DoD to mobilize, deploy, support, and sustain military operations throughout the continuum of operations.
24. Natural Disaster. An emergency situation posing significant danger to life and property that results from a natural cause. (See also domestic emergencies.)
25. Pre-Scripted Mission Assignments (PSMAs). Mission Assurances which are prepared in advance to facilitate a more rapid response and standardize the process of developing Mission Assurances.
26. Primary Agency (PA). The federal department or agency assigned primary responsibility for managing and coordinating a specific emergency support function in the National Response Framework.
27. Request for Assistance (RFA). A request based on mission requirements and expressed in terms of desired outcome, formally asking the DoD to provide assistance to a local, State, tribal or other federal agency.

28. Standing Rules for the Use of Force (SRUF). Preapproved directives issued to guide U.S. forces on the use of force during various operations. (These directives may take the form of execute orders, deployment orders, memoranda of agreement, or plans.)