
Statement for the Record

Glenn M. Cannon

Assistant Administrator, Disaster Operations Directorate

Federal Emergency Management Agency

Department of Homeland Security

Before the

United States House of Representatives

Homeland Security Committee

Subcommittee on Emergency Communications, Preparedness, and Response

“Examining the Military’s Support of Civil Authorities During Disasters”

April 25, 2007

Introduction

Chairman Thompson, Subcommittee Chairman Cueller, Ranking Members King and Dent, and Members of the Committee, thank you for inviting me to appear before you today.

I am Glenn M. Cannon, Assistant Administrator, Disaster Operations Directorate, FEMA. Let me start by saying that I look forward to working with this Subcommittee and the entire Congress to continue the improvements we are implementing to enhance the capabilities of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). Based on our experiences and lessons learned over the years, we are working hard to reorganize and build a new FEMA to further improve our Nation's all-hazards preparedness, protection, response, recovery and mitigation systems and capabilities. We are taking the first steps in what will be a multi-year effort to significantly increase FEMA's core capabilities and capacity to better serve and protect our Nation and its citizens.

FEMA learned significant lessons from the 2005 Hurricane Season. Following Hurricane Katrina, the White House issued a report entitled, "The Federal Response to Hurricane Katrina Lessons Learned" in which several recommendations were included related to integrating the use of military capabilities in catastrophic disaster response. The report specifically stated that the Department of Defense (DOD) and DHS should jointly plan for the DOD's support of Federal response activities. The report also recommended that DOD and DHS plan and prepare for a significant DOD supporting role during a catastrophic event. It further stated that DOD's joint operational response doctrine is an integral part of the national effort and must be fully integrated into the national response at all levels of government and that DOD should have a contingency role and a requirement to assist DHS with expertise in logistics, planning, and total asset visibility. The White House Report stated that the National Response Plan (NRP) and its Catastrophic Incident Supplement (CIS) should specify the specific requirements for DOD resources based on the magnitude and type of catastrophic incident.

More recently, the "DHS Appropriations Act of 2007/Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006," (Post-Katrina Act) articulated new expectations for FEMA, established new leadership responsibilities, brought an expanded scope of missions, and called for FEMA to undertake a broad range of activities involving preparedness, protection, response, recovery and mitigation both before and after terrorist events, natural and manmade disasters. The Post-Katrina Act contains provisions that set out new law, amend the Homeland Security Act (HSA), and amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Stafford Act).

Among the specific responsibilities assigned to FEMA in the Post-Katrina Act are:

- leading the nation's comprehensive emergency management efforts (including protection) for all hazards, including catastrophic incidents;
- partnering with non-Federal entities to build a national emergency management system;
- developing Federal response capabilities;

- integrating FEMA’s comprehensive emergency management responsibilities;
- building robust regional offices to address regional priorities;
- using DHS resources under the Secretary’s leadership;
- building non-Federal emergency management capabilities, including those involving communications; and
- developing and coordinating the implementation of a risk-based all hazards preparedness strategy that addresses the unique needs of certain incidents.

DOD has a key role supporting FEMA in many of these areas and in overall planning, coordinating, and integrating Defense Support to Civil Authorities (DSCA) with local, State, and Federal agencies. DSCA is DOD’s support, provided by its Federal military forces, DOD civilians, contract personnel, and DOD components, in response to requests for assistance. The DOD focus in domestic disaster response is on providing homeland defense, supporting civil operations, and cooperating in theater security activities designed to protect the American people and their way of life. FEMA’s partnership with DOD continues to evolve and the disaster response support DOD and its multiple components bring to FEMA is critical to enhancing our comprehensive preparedness, protection, response, recovery, and mitigation capabilities for dealing with all types of natural and man-made hazards.

It is my pleasure to highlight the multiple facets of coordination and cooperation between FEMA and its partners in DOD.

FEMA and DOD Coordination

DHS/FEMA coordinates with DOD through the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense (ASD/HD), and specifically coordinates with the Joint Staff through the Joint Director of Military Support (JDOMS). The support from the Secretary of Defense and the DOD in preparing for all types of disasters is critical. Beneficial support is provided by different DOD components including:

- US Northern Command (USNORTHCOM)
- Defense Logistics Agency (DLA)
- U S Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- National Guard Bureau (NGB)
- National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA)
- US Transportation Command (USTRANSCOM)
- US Pacific Command (USPACOM)
- US Southern Command (SOUTHCOM)
- Marine Corps Systems Command

Collectively with DOD and the State National Guards, FEMA and its partners have learned many lessons from the response to Hurricane Katrina and many other disasters and are using these lessons to enhance overall coordination and cooperation to improve future disaster responses. Coordination has and continues to take place among all of these organizations in many different forms and forums such as the following:

- DOD assignment of liaison officers to FEMA Headquarters to represent JDOMS, USNORTHCOM, and the NGB. The liaisons help ensure effective coordination of activities, provide advice, prepare reports, and facilitate relationship building for more effective and timely DSCA;
- Two FEMA representatives are assigned permanently at USNORTHCOM to facilitate exchange of information and provide advice on FEMA programs and disaster response issues. FEMA and USNORTHCOM have been closely coordinating and cooperating in a number of areas including:
 - Routine video-teleconferences to facilitate development of pre-scripted mission assignments and exchange information;
 - Direct exchange of operational information and reports between USNORTHCOM's Command Center and FEMA's National Response Coordination Center (NRCC);
 - Detail of USNORTHCOM and USTRANSCOM planning personnel to augment FEMA's planning staff and capabilities;
 - Coordination of activities of USNORTHCOM, FEMA's Operation Planning Unit, and the DHS Incident Management Planning Team (IMPT) to more fully synchronize and integrate DOD and DHS/FEMA planning and response activities. A DOD staff member is assigned to the DHS IMPT;
 - FEMA and USNORTHCOM collaboration, with ASD/HD and JDOMS, to develop Pre-Scripted Mission Assignments (PSMAs) to facilitate DSCA for hurricanes and other disaster response. Thus far, 16 PSMAs have been pre-approved and coordinated between DOD and FEMA with an additional 28 between FEMA and USACE. The PSMAs, also to be incorporated into the 15 National Planning Scenarios, include the following general support:
 - Rotary Wing Lift Support (Heavy and Medium support)
 - Tactical and Strategic Transportation Support
 - Communications Support
 - First Responder Support
 - Emergency Route Clearance Support
 - Aerial Damage Assessment Support
 - Support in preparation of Temporary Housing Sites
 - Mobilization Center Support
 - Operational Staging Area Support
 - Fuel Distribution Support
 - Rotary Wing Medical Evacuation Support
 - Temporary Medical Facilities Support
 - Support from USNORTHCOM in posting interagency data elements by Emergency Support Functions on the DHS Homeland Security Information Network (HSIN) to enhance the interagency common operating picture. This facilitates preparation of timely and authoritative information for the President and senior officials;

- FEMA and USNORTHCOM co-sponsorship of the annual Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO) – Defense Coordinating Officer (DCO) Conference designed to maintain and enhance civilian-military interaction and support of planning and disaster response activities within each FEMA Regional Office;
- Planning support from the Joint Interagency Coordination Group (JIACG), USNORTHCOM’s primary interagency forum. The JIACG consists of approximately 60 interagency Combatant Command, service component, and staff representatives that support planning efforts at all levels related to such key issues as the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), private sector engagement, critical infrastructure protection, pandemic influenza planning, and engagement on interagency coordination of cross border major disaster events response activities. The JIACG interagency representatives also provide “reach-back” capability to provide and receive information from interagency partner organizations;
- Participation by USNORTHCOM and its components in the FEMA led New Madrid Seismic Zone Catastrophic Planning Initiative and other catastrophic planning initiatives to examine preparedness, response, and recovery measures at the local, State and Federal levels;
- Participation by USNORTHCOM in the Department of State and FEMA-led interagency effort to develop an International Assistance System Concept of Operations. This will establish, within the National Response Plan framework, policies and procedures to enhance management of international resources provided to the US by concerned nations during disaster response operations;
- USNORTHCOM coordination with the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) and the EMAC representatives to share information and gain a better understanding of planning and operational response needs;
- FEMA, EPA and USNORTHCOM coordination to implement an interagency approach to Building Partnership Capacity in emergency preparedness and response between the four US Border States and six Mexican Border States and the Canadian border provinces. These cross border preparedness efforts will strengthen understanding and coordination of border municipal, county and State response capabilities for hazardous materials, natural disasters and potential man made events to protect our citizens and support the trilateral Presidential Security and Prosperity Partnership; and
- Leadership visits, exercise cooperation, and exchange of Operation Officers.
- Close coordination between FEMA and USACE to facilitate USACE support in conducting pre-and post-incident assessments of public works and infrastructure;

providing engineering expertise; managing construction; and providing certain response commodities;

- DOD component participation in FEMA's Senior Emergency Support Function Leaders Group (ESFLG) Meetings, in which lead Emergency Support Function (ESF) managers (and other organizations with equities) convene to discuss roles and responsibilities, update the National Response Plan, and discuss disaster preparedness and response issues;
- Maintenance of a list of DOD organizations that can support FEMA in disaster response activities;
- DOD assignment of Regional Defense Coordinating Officers (DCOs) supported by Defense Coordinating Elements (DCE) in FEMA's Regions to ensure military coordination at the Regional level. All 10 FEMA Regions were staffed by Permanent or Acting DCOs and support DCEs by June 1, 2006; and
- DOD assignment of planners to support the FEMA Headquarters in the areas of logistics, transportation, medical, and communications and support the Gulf Coast Recovery Office in the areas of logistics, transportation, medical, communications, operations, and aviation during the 2006 Hurricane Season.
- As the 2007 Hurricane Season approaches, FEMA's close coordination of activities with DOD continues. Processes and procedures continue to be reviewed and refined and there is ongoing coordination of training, disaster response planning, and exercise activities as well as ongoing joint coordination with the States and staff exchanges.

National Guard and National Guard Bureau: Federal and State Military Integration

The National Guard is the organized militia reserved to the States by the Constitution. In peacetime, the National Guard is commanded by the governor of each respective State or territory. When ordered to Federal active duty for mobilization or for emergencies, units of the National Guard are under the control of the appropriate service secretary. The FY04 National Defense Authorization Act amended Title 32 to make it possible for a National Guard officer to be in command of Federal (Active Duty) and State (National Guard Title 32 and State Active Duty) forces simultaneously.

Generally, there are two levels of coordination between FEMA and the National Guard. FEMA coordination with the National Guard at the State level routinely takes place between FEMA Regional staff and State officials. In fact, 14 of The Adjutant Generals (TAG), the leadership of the National Guard are also State Emergency Management Officials (SEMOs). At the national level, FEMA coordinates with the National Guard Bureau (NGB) which routinely interacts with all States and Territories on DSCA and Homeland Security matters to coordinate providing national level support. FEMA can request the NGB to assess National Guard capabilities but does not generally use the Mission Assignment (MA) process to directly leverage National Guard capabilities. To

do so would require that DOD place the National Guard under Title 10 status. State requirements for National Guard support are normally filled under NEMA EMAC processes. Also, the NGB can assist States in identifying National Guard capabilities available to meet EMAC requirements. During Hurricane Katrina, EMAC requests for assistance were executed using National Guardsmen.

FEMA continues to coordinate and cooperate with the various States' TAGs, as well as with the NGB, in a number of disaster response-related areas to include improving situational awareness, communications planning, force package planning, and overall mission and disaster response planning. In addition to a full-time JDOMS Liaison Officer with a National Guard background, being assigned to FEMA's Disaster Operations Directorate for day-to-day operations, during actual disaster response operations response operations, FEMA engages closely with both the State NGs and the NGB to ensure close coordination and synchronization of disaster response activities.

At the State level, there are approximately 14 TAGs who serve as SEMOs or act as the Director of Homeland Security within a given State. Even if the TAGS are not SEMOs, FEMA coordinates routinely at the regional level with the National Guard, under State control, to ensure disaster response efforts are coordinated.

We have taken several actions to improve daily coordination between FEMA and the NGB, including:

- Convening daily conference calls to review current operational activities between NRCC/Watch, NGB/Joint Operations Center (JOC), and USNORTHCOM's Command Center;
- Sharing daily informational reports between the NGB JOC and FEMA's 24/7 Watch Team;
- Routinely sharing Incident Reports and Executive Summaries with the NGB;
- Sharing special event planning information and situational awareness for National Special Security Events (NSSE) and other special events;
- Sharing information on special capabilities like special National Guard WMD capabilities, e.g., Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Teams and Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and Explosives (CBRNE) Emergency Response Force Packages;
- Participating with the NGB and TAGs in Hurricane Planning Conferences, exercises, meetings, and other coordination activities;

More specifically, the NG can support homeland defense and disaster response in several different ways:

- **National Guard Reaction Force (NGRF)**
NGRFs are traditional units that are pre-designated for quick response on a rotating basis. The goal is a trained and ready NG force available to each State's governor on short

notice, capable of responding in support of local and State governments and, when required, DOD.

- **Critical Infrastructure Program – Mission Assurance Assessment**

Program designed to educate civilian agencies in basic force protection and emergency response; develop relationships between first responders, owners of critical infrastructure, and NG planners in the States.

- **WMD Civil Support Teams (CST)**

Highly skilled, full-time teams, established to provide specialized expertise and technical assistance to an incident commander to assess, assist, advise, and facilitate follow-on forces. State Governors, through their respective TAGs, have operational command and control of the teams. NGB provides logistical support, standardized operational procedures, and operational coordination to facilitate the employment of the teams.

- **CBRNE Enhanced Response Force Package (CERFP)**

Designed to provide a regional capability to locate and extract victims from a contaminated environment, perform medical triage and treatment, and conduct personnel decontamination in response to a WMD event. Each task force works in coordination with USNORTHCOM, USPACOM and other military forces and commands as part of the overall national response of local, State and Federal assets. Each CERFP has a regional responsibility as well as the capability to respond to major CBRNE incidents anywhere within the US or worldwide. This capability augments the CST and provides a task force-oriented structure that will respond to an incident on short notice.

- **NSSE**

The NGB Joint Intelligence Division, in coordination with the Joint Force Headquarters-State intelligence offices, provides support to each NSSE. Support missions included traffic control-point operations, a civil disturbance reaction force, aviation and medical evacuation, chemical detection and crowd screening.

- **NG Joint Force Headquarters-State (JFHQ-State)**

A JFHQ-State has been established in 54 States and territories to provide command and control links for all NG forces. The JFHQ-State is responsible for fielding one or more Joint Task Forces (JTF) command elements that can assume tactical control of military units that are ordered to respond to a contingency operation within a State and would provide joint reception, staging, onward movement and integration of inbound forces. If ordered to active duty, the JFHQ-State can act as a subordinate command and control headquarters for USNORTHCOM or, in the case of Hawaii or Guam, USPACOM.

- **JTF-State**

A JTF-State may be formed under the JFHQ-State to maintain command and control of NG forces. A JTF-State includes a JTF command element that will work closely with the incident commander to determine if additional NG or active duty DOD resources are required and assists in their safe and effective employment. JTF-State Commanders receive formal training which includes NIMS and Incident Command System concepts.

The NGB is represented on USNORTHCOM's JIACG along with representatives from other DOD components and non-DOD organizations to help coordinate and refine disaster response roles and capabilities. NGB works closely with USNORTHCOM to plan for, exercise, develop, and refine capabilities to respond to a domestic incident. Both organizations, as needed by the affected State, will work closely together to integrate resources. Through mutual aid agreements, National Guard forces can provide critical security work, support civilian law enforcement, food, water, medicine, shelter, transportation, vital communications, and all of the other emergency support functions in support of FEMA.

Another example of the strong working relationship between FEMA and NGB is the Memorandum of Understanding between the two organizations that was signed October 1, 2006. This agreement allows FEMA to leverage NGB capabilities to assist in Continuity of Operations Planning site vulnerability assessments for emergency preparedness, contingency operations planning, and situational awareness.

Training and Exercises:

FEMA and DOD jointly participate in a variety of training and exercise activities with varying scenarios designed to improve disaster response capabilities. Many of these take place at the State, local, and regional levels. USNORTHCOM's Table Top Exercise Program hosts Table Top Exercises (TTX) that FEMA participates in that specifically relate to integration of USNORTHCOM and the NGB with the NRP/Interagency efforts to facilitate domestic disaster response. A recent TTX objective was to examine and lay the foundation for potential deployment and employment of DOD Unmanned Aerial Systems in a DSCA role.

In another example of joint exercise activity, FEMA and USNORTHCOM exercised catastrophic disaster response during Vigilant Shield 07, an exercise focusing on a nuclear weapons accident and a terrorist event. FEMA is participating in DOD's upcoming Ardent Sentry-Northern Edge 07 Exercise featuring a hurricane and terrorism response scenario. FEMA will also participate in DOD's Vigilant Shield 08 exercise. US Army North (US ARNORTH) will participate in Exercise Ardent Sentry 2007 by deploying their entire Operational Command Post in a hurricane response exercise. The exercises are normally synchronized with local and State responses, involve the interagency community and NG participation, and demonstrate USNORTHCOM's participation and capabilities in overall Federal disaster response. FEMA routinely coordinates with DOD in the Top Officials Exercise series and in communications exercises such as the Defense Interoperability Communications Exercise and Joint User Interoperability Communications Exercises to test and validate communications capabilities and interoperability between the different levels of government and the emergency management community, including DOD.

In the area of training, DOD trains Emergency Preparedness Liaisons Officers (EPLO) in all of the DOD components in the NIMS/Incident Command System. Also, FEMA and

the US ARNORTH have refocused the DSCA course to now include FCOs and DCOs to further strengthen the military and civilian understanding of the important disaster response roles and responsibilities. USNORTHCOM is continuing training to respond to requests for assistance from the NRP Primary Agencies in preparation for the 2007 Hurricane Season.

Another example of DOD education and training related to disaster preparedness and response can be found at The Industrial College of the Armed Forces (ICAF) at the National Defense University (NDU). ICAF provides elective courses in emergency management response operations and managing complex disaster response operations for future DOD leaders.

In addition, the NDU Interagency Transformation, Education and Analysis Program and the School for National Security Senior Executives faculty members are developing domestic disaster management course modules as part of the national security professional development program. FEMA enrolls students in these classes and is often requested to provide briefings and updates. FEMA also participates in disaster response-related activities at the Army and Navy War Colleges.

Logistics Coordination and Support:

FEMA is working hard to develop a more highly disciplined, agile, and sophisticated logistics organization and system to better support disaster response operations. The new logistics organization will be one that is more proactive and couples 21st century technology and a professional workforce with strategic public and private partnerships. Achieving total system integrity, visibility, and accountability over select disaster resources will be emphasized. FEMA is coordinating closely with DOD in many aspects of the development of an improved national logistics system.

A key partner in this relationship is the DLA. The relationship between DLA and FEMA is a strong one, founded on close collaboration and a regular dialogue. The mechanisms that DLA has implemented to support FEMA, including the ability to closely track materiel in-transit to a disaster site, have been developed because of that close collaboration and dialogue.

FEMA and DLA signed an Interagency Agreement (IAA) in March 2006. This agreement helped streamline DLA support and increase DLA's close supportive relationship to FEMA's logistics efforts. In the past year, the relationship has evolved from support to disaster response, to proactive logistical and planning support, both before an event occurs and during the response efforts. DLA's efforts are focused primarily on supporting food and bulk fuel requirements. FEMA is using the FEMA-DLA IAA for vendor management/stockage of meals ready to eat (MRE) through the Defense Supply Center in Philadelphia. DLA has also established alternative commercial feeding options that FEMA can utilize in lieu of MREs. Fuel support is being provided through the Defense Energy Support Center (DESC). The DLA IAA can also be used for

other DLA-managed commodities if required.

Similarly, FEMA signed an IAA in July 2006 with the Marine Corps Systems Command to support the Pre-positioned Equipment Program (PEP). PEP consists of standardized equipment pods with equipment such as personal protective, decontamination, detection, technical search and rescue, law enforcement, medical, interoperable communications and other emergency response equipment that can be deployed to support State and local governments in responding to a major chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, explosives or natural hazard event. Logistical support in the IAA includes operational management of PEP, including locations, equipment sets, and personnel.

DHS/US Coast Guard Role

The U.S. Coast Guard is one of the five armed services as outlined in 14 U.S.C. § 1 which states: "The Coast Guard as established January 28, 1915, shall be a military service and a branch of the armed forces of the United States at all times." The Coast Guard was placed under the Department of Homeland Security DHS on February 25, 2003 where it executes a variety of missions including search and rescue, maritime law enforcement, and defense readiness. However, the Coast Guard also shoulders substantial disaster response capabilities and an expanded role in the NRP. Coast Guard support is provided directly to DHS and FEMA during an emergency, with Coast Guard response and incident management personnel integrating directly into the DHS/FEMA incident management organization established for a specific incident. Under the old Federal Response Plan, the Coast Guard generally played a role in only two support functions; Emergency Support Function (ESF) 1 and ESF 10. However, with the broader approach under the NRP, and the implementation of Pre-scripted Mission Assignments, the Coast Guard can be called upon to provide support in 9 separate ESFs across 20 possible Mission Assignments areas. To ensure close coordination of Coast Guard and FEMA planning and disaster response operations, two Coast Guard liaisons are assigned to FEMA Headquarters. In addition, the Coast Guard has trained a number of Joint Field Office (JFO) Support Teams to assist FEMA during an incident. These Coast Guard JFO teams perform the dual responsibilities of representing Coast Guard interests during an incident while providing support to the overall Federal response.

The creation of DHS brought Coast Guard and FEMA together for the first time into the same department. This has led to steadily increasing cooperation between the two agencies across a spectrum of preparedness planning, exercise and training, response issues, in identifying lessons learned, and in tracking and implementing remedial actions at the national level. In this cross-pollination, both agencies have been able to make a number of improvements to their respective contingency plans.

For Hurricanes Katrina and Rita the Coast Guard performed work for FEMA under the authority of the Stafford Act. The Coast Guard conducted operations within the parameters established by FEMA's issued Mission Assignments and Task Orders. In addition, both agencies partnered extensively as key members of DHS's NIMS and NRP writing teams. The combined efforts helped to guide the creation of a consistent

nationwide approach for all Federal, State, local and Tribal governments to work effectively and efficiently together to prepare for, prevent, respond to, and recover from domestic incidents, regardless of cause, size or complexity.

The most significant adjustment in the Coast Guard role under the NRP relates to one of their cornerstone traditional missions. Working jointly, the US Coast Guard, NGB, and USNORTHCOM have helped coordinate development of larger scale search and rescue operations and a Joint Search and Rescue Center. ESF 9 is being revised to expand the participation of other Federal entities including DOD and the US Coast Guard.

NRP and Disaster Response

The NRP provides the structures and mechanism for national-level policy and operational direction for domestic incident management. The NRP is always in effect; however, the implementation of NRP coordination mechanisms is flexible and scalable. The role of DOD in disaster response is similarly flexible and scalable. FEMA routinely coordinates with military components; however, many of DOD's resources may be needed only in the most severe or catastrophic disasters.

The DOD has significant resources that may be made available to support the Federal response to terrorist attacks, major disasters or other emergencies. DOD is a supporting Agency for all 15 of the NRP's ESFs. DOD's USACE is the coordinating/primary agency for ESF # 3, Public Works and Engineering.

The Secretary of Defense authorizes DSCA for domestic incidents as directed by the President or when consistent with military readiness operations, appropriate under the circumstances and the law. DOD resources are committed upon approval by the Secretary of Defense or upon order of the President. In a major disaster or catastrophic emergency, the coordination can grow to include the authorities of the Defense Production Act. The Secretary of Defense retains command of military forces providing civil support at all times.

Within DOD, USNORTHCOM has responsibility for military operations within the continental United States in the event of a domestic incident. For such a response, DOD is set up to be largely independent in its operations; however, DOD resources still need to be coordinated within the overall Federal response under the NRP. Disaster response support required from DOD could range from commodity distribution to assisting with:

- search and rescue,
- communications,
- evacuation,
- security,
- housing operations,
- fuel distribution,
- debris clearance,
- medical care and medical evacuation,
- power generation,

- air support can be provided for movement of FEMA teams

In most instances, DOD provides DSCA in response to “Requests For Assistance” from a lead or primary NRP Department or Agency. DSCA is typically provided on a reimbursable basis through MAs or PSMA’s and is normally provided when local, State, and Federal resources are overwhelmed or need to be augmented and the requested support does not interfere with the Department’s military readiness or operations. The supporting DOD combatant commander may deploy a JTF to command Federal (Title 10) military activities in support of the incident. When a JTF is established, consistent with operational requirements, its command and control element will be co-located with the Principal Federal Official (PFO) and FCO at a JFO. The collocation of the JTF command and control element does not replace the requirement for a Defense Coordination Officer and Defense Coordination Element (DCO/DCE) as part of the JFO Coordination staff. Each FEMA Region now has a DCO/DCE assigned to serve as the primary representative for FEMA to coordinate with DOD at the crisis scene.

DHS and FEMA value the support of the Secretary of Defense and DOD components to facilitate and support Federal, State and local disaster response activities. In addition to direct support for disaster response, DOD possesses specialized testing, evaluation, and education facilities; training and exercise expertise; medical capabilities; and technology programs that provide important support to all levels of government in enhancing the Nation’s disaster preparedness and response capabilities.

Conclusion

Thank you for your time today, and I look forward to answering your questions.