



HUMAN RESOURCES DEPLOYMENT INFORMATION – NON-COMBATANT STATUS WHILE IN THEATER

The concept of “noncombatants” has changed due to advances in warfare technology. Recent interpretations of the terms “combatants” and “noncombatants” by the U.S. Army and its counterparts in the United Kingdom, Australia and Canada has required avoiding labeling these civilians as “combatants.” Instead, the correct term is “civilians accompanying the Armed Forces in the theater of operations as authorized members of that force.”

Those civilians who accompany military forces into a theater of operations lawfully may do so, but are likely to be regarded by enemy forces as combatants. Depending upon their function or actions, they are subject to attack or capture. They may be issued self-defense weapons subject to the in-theater commander’s discretion and after appropriate familiarization training.