Overview of Federal-to-Federal Support in Non-Stafford Act Situations

This overview illustrates actions the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and Federal agencies are likely to take to support a Federal department or agency that has requested DHS assistance in handling an incident that would generally fall under the requesting department or agency's jurisdiction. Key operational components that may be activated include the National Response Coordination Center (NRCC), Regional Response Coordination Center (RRCC), and Joint Field Office (JFO).

- 1. Federal departments and agencies routinely manage the response to incidents under their statutory or executive authority that do not require the assistance of other Federal agencies. When a Federal entity with primary responsibility and authority for handling an incident requires assistance, that agency may request DHS coordination of Federal multiagency assistance. In such cases, DHS coordinates assistance using the procedures and structures within the *National Response Framework*. Generally, the requesting agency funds the participation of other Federal departments and agencies in accordance with provisions of the Economy Act unless other pertinent authorities exist.
- 2. To initiate Federal-to-Federal support, the requesting agency submits a request for assistance to the DHS Executive Secretary via the National Operations Center (NOC). Requests include a summary of the situation, types and amount of resources needed, financial information, and any other appropriate details.
- 3. Upon approval of the request, the Secretary of Homeland Security issues an operations order to the NOC. The NOC, through the NRCC, coordinates the activation of the appropriate Emergency Support Functions. The Secretary of Homeland Security designates a Federal Resource Coordinator (FRC) to manage Federal resource support. In circumstances requiring extraordinary coordination, the Secretary may appoint a Principal Federal Official to serve as his or her representative in the field.
- 4. The requesting agency designates a senior official to work in coordination with the FRC as part of the Unified Coordination Group to identify and define specific support requirements.
- 5. The requesting agency also provides comptrollers to the NRCC, RRCC, and JFO, as appropriate, to oversee financial management activities.
- 6. An RRCC may be fully or partially activated to facilitate the deployment of resources until a JFO is established. Facilities, such as mobilization centers, may be established to accommodate personnel, equipment, and supplies.
- 7. Federal agencies provide resources under interagency reimbursable agreements or their own authorities.
- 8. Once established, the JFO serves as the focal point for coordinating Federal assistance to the requesting agency and incident command structures on-scene.
- 9. As the need for full-time interagency coordination at the JFO decreases, the Unified Coordination Group plans for selective release of Federal resources, demobilization, and closeout.