

**INFORMATION PAPER
PROGRAMS DIRECTORATE
HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE, DISASTER RELIEF & MINE ACTION DIVISION**

Subject: DoD Foreign Disaster Relief/Emergency Response (FDR/ER)

Background:

- DoD Components participate in FDR/ER activities 1) when directed by the President, 2) with approval of the Secretary of State/USAID, and 3) in emergency situations in order to save lives.
- DoD plays a key role in disaster situations by offering unique assets for timely and effective response to foreign nations. The U.S. military also obtains substantial training, access, and readiness enhancing benefits when providing relief.
- All responses to such crises are coordinated with the Department of State (DoS) and the Agency for International Development (AID), its Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) and other relevant agencies.
- DoD FDR/ER may be conducted upon receipt of an official request for assistance from DoS/USAID and after OFDA receives a disaster declaration cable from the U.S. Ambassador and/or Chief of Mission.
- The Combatant Commander (CoCom) may provide immediate life-saving assistance when there is not sufficient time to seek prior concurrence from the DoS/OSD. Other emergency response activities include transportation of supplies, logistical support, communications, search and rescue, medical evacuation, and assistance to internally displaced people (IDP).
- DoD can provide low-cost and nutritionally viable, humanitarian daily rations (HDRs) for use in foreign countries to alleviate hunger after man-made/natural disasters. Nutritional content is tailored for people fleeing catastrophe and/or who are moderately malnourished. DSCA manages the HDRs (see also separate paper).
- DSCA manages and coordinates the funding and activities of FDR/ER with the interagency and appropriate defense components.
- DSCA provides funding from the Overseas Humanitarian, Disaster, and Civic Aid (OHDACA) appropriation to claimants to support DoD foreign disaster relief and emergency response missions.

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