

## What is DSCA?

DSCA is support provided by U.S. Federal military forces, DoD civilians, DoD contract personnel, DoD Component assets, and, in coordination with the Governors, Federally funded National Guard forces 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."

## Who We Are

We are the DSCA Office and are located within the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense and Americas' Security Affairs. We coordinate DoD's domestic efforts in support of other Federal Departments and Agencies, States, and local authorities.

## What We Do

When requested, DoD can provide essential, life-saving assistance to civil authorities in response to a crisis or a natural disaster, or in support of special events when local, Tribal, and State capabilities are overwhelmed or exhausted. This support is available within the United States, including any territory or possession.

## What You Can Do

Don't wait for a crisis to unfold to learn how this process can help your community. Ask if there is an existing Mutual Aid Agreement between your community and any nearby DoD installations or if your State has an EMAC agreement. Such agreements can save lives and mitigate damage during a time of crisis. Check for updates of this guide at the following website:

[http://policy.defense.gov/hdasal/references/refdocs/dsca\\_interagency\\_partner\\_guide.pdf](http://policy.defense.gov/hdasal/references/refdocs/dsca_interagency_partner_guide.pdf)

"We must always be preparing for the next disaster" and focused on "what we can do."

-W. Craig Fugate, FEMA Administrator, August 29, 2010

DoD is a partner in support of FEMA, whose mission is to reduce the loss of life and property and protect communities Nationwide from all hazards, including natural disasters, acts of terrorism, and other man-made disasters. FEMA is organized into ten "Regions" as depicted on the map below.



FEMA coordinates response support from across the Federal Government and certain Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) by calling up, as needed, Emergency Support Functions (ESFs). DoD is the lead coordinator for ESF #3 and could be a major contributor in all 15 of the ESFs below:

- |                                     |                                     |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1- Transportation                   | 10- Oil & HAZMAT...                 |
| 2- Communications                   | 11- Agriculture & Natural Resources |
| 3- Public Works & Engineering       | 12- Energy                          |
| 4- Firefighting                     | 13- Public Safety & Security        |
| 5- Emergency Management             | 14- Long-Term Community Recovery    |
| 6- Mass Care, Emergency...          | 15- External Affairs                |
| 7- Logistics Management &...        |                                     |
| 8- Public Health & Medical Services |                                     |
| 9- Search & Rescue                  |                                     |



# Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA)

## Interagency Partner Guide

November 2011

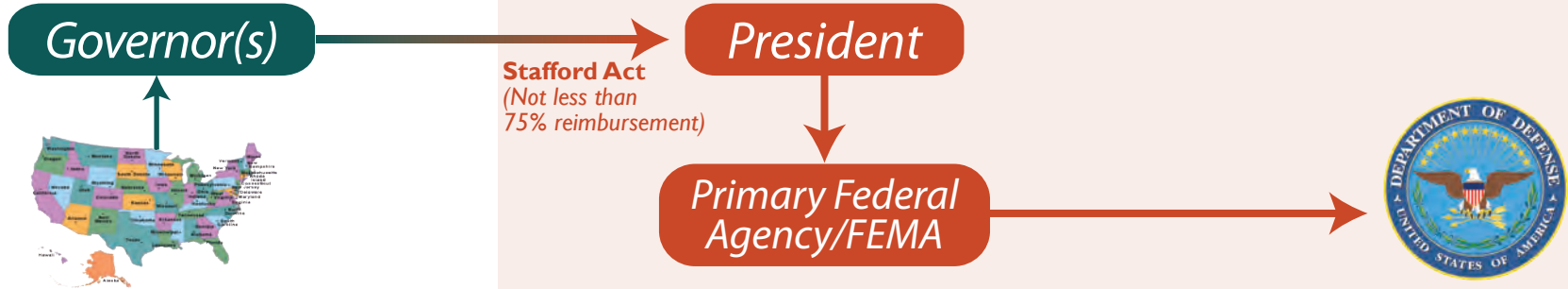


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# Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA)

## State System

## Federal System



**1** Governors. Responsible for the public safety and welfare of their respective State's citizens. They can request Federal assistance, including a Stafford Act Presidential declaration of "emergency" or "major disaster," when it becomes clear that their State's capabilities will be insufficient or have been exceeded.

Directors, State Emergency Management Agencies. Ensure that their States are prepared to deal with large-scale emergencies. They are also responsible for coordinating the State response to any incident.

Emergency Management Assistance Compacts (EMAC). EMAC is the Nation's State-to-State mutual aid system. Consented to by Congress, EMAC is in effect in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

State/Local Agencies. Local leaders and emergency managers prepare their communities to manage incidents locally.

Additional Support Available to States and their Local Communities:

- State National Guard Forces
- Regional Compacts
- Bilateral State-to-State agreements
- Mutual aid and assistance from local jurisdictions
- Private Sector and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

**2** President. When a Governor requests assistance, the President will task a Primary Federal Agency to lead and coordinate the Federal response to a declared "emergency" or "major disaster."

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Department of Homeland Security (DHS). Serves as the Primary Federal Agency to lead and coordinate the Federal response to a Stafford Act declared "emergency" or "major disaster."

National Response Framework (NRF).

Guide to how the Nation conducts all-hazards emergency response. The NRF contains fifteen Emergency Support Functions (ESFs), which represent functional capabilities. Each ESF has a Federal Department or Agency assigned as its lead coordinator. DoD supports all fifteen ESFs and is the coordinator for ESF #3 (Public Works and Engineering) through the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

For more information refer to:

- FEMA: (800) 621-FEMA / TTY (800) 462-7585 or <http://www.fema.gov>
- NRF: <http://www.fema.gov/emergency/nrf>
- ESFs: <http://fema.gov/pdf/emergency/nrf/nrf-esf-all.pdf>

**3** Department of Defense (DoD). DoD is prepared to play a key role supporting disaster response, consistent with the NRF. Additional forms of existing DoD DSCA support include:

Immediate Response Authority. Allows DoD officials to use resources under their control to support life-saving efforts and mitigate significant property damage in response to requests from local officials when an imminent danger exists and there is not time to obtain higher-level DoD approval. Such support will be limited in duration and subject to DoD review.

Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreements. Reciprocal agreements with DoD installations that typically include fire protection.

Specific DoD Agencies with Existing Authorities to conduct DSCA:

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- Defense Logistics Agency (DLA)
- National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA)

Domestic Preparedness Support Initiative (DPSI): Coordinating element located in the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Homeland Defense and Americas' Security Affairs. It coordinates DoD efforts to identify and transfer technology and equipment to Federal, State, and local first responders. In Fiscal Year 2011, more than \$500 million and \$100 million worth of excess DoD equipment were provided to law enforcement and firefighting organizations, respectively. For more information, contact the DPSI Office at [domesticpreparedness@osd.mil](mailto:domesticpreparedness@osd.mil).