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

SUBJECT: Humanitarian Assistance Program (HAP)

Background: DoD humanitarian assistance activities were first authorized by Congress in 1986 to transport DoD excess non-lethal property and privately donated humanitarian assistance and relief material to countries in need. In FY 1996, DoD was permitted to fund a wider variety of HA activities, including using contracts and U.S. military/DoD civilian personnel to conduct specific humanitarian projects. The Humanitarian Assistance Program (HAP) provides a key tool for Geographic Combatant Commands (GCCs) to achieve national security interests and regional strategic objectives, and should be an integral component of theater campaign planning. HAP activities will principally support the accomplishment of DoD theater objectives, specifically those related to improving DoD visibility, access, and influence, and be complementary to the USEmbassy's Mission Strategic Resources Plan (MSRP) and USAID's foreign assistance framework. Program authorization is derived from 10 U.S.C. section 2561 and the Overseas Humanitarian, Disaster and Civic Aid (OHDACA) Appropriation, managed by the Defense Security Cooperation Agency, is the funding source for approved activities.

The current HA program consists of DoD personnel planning, overseeing, conducting, and evaluating specific humanitarian projects and activities including assistance to host nation civilian authorities in the sectors of disaster mitigation and preparation, health support, education support, and basic infrastructure. The HA program includes provisions for donating non-lethal excess DoD property and other relief supplies, transportation of privately donated relief materials to nations in need, and a space available transportation program under 10 U.S.C. section 402. The involvement of the military geographical commanders has been key to the design and execution of the projects and the success of the program.

DSCA Responsibilities: Advises the USD (Policy) in all program management and execution matters relating to overseas humanitarian assistance activities conducted by the Combatant Commanders. DSCA also manages the Overseas Humanitarian, Disaster and Civic Aid (OHDACA) appropriation and oversees its funded programs.

HDM Responsibilities:

- Operation and execution of the worldwide DoD HA program.
- Oversees the GCCs' management of DoD humanitarian programs and activities authorized by statute and for which funds are authorized and appropriated.
- Provides program management guidance to the GCCs via Chapter 12 of the Security Assistance Management Manual. Reviews and approves GCC plans and budget submissions in coordination with SOLIC/PSO and other offices/agencies, as required.
- Justifies, controls, allocates, and oversees the OHDACA appropriation.
- Reviews and approves GCC HA projects above the "minimal cost" threshold.
- Coordinates the review of projects with relevant DoD and non-DoD participants.
- Manages the Overseas Humanitarian Assistance Shared Information System (OHAISIS) (<https://www.ohasis.org>).
- Responds to requests for information or guidance on HA program management issues.

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- Prepares the required annual report to Congress required by 10 U.S.C. 2561.

Updated July 2012

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