

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

SUBJECT: DoD Foreign Disaster Relief (FDR)

BACKGROUND:

- Title 10 Section 404 authorizes the President to direct the Secretary of Defense (SECDEF) to provide disaster assistance outside the United States to respond to manmade or natural disasters when necessary to prevent loss of lives or serious harm to the environment.
- Per Executive Order 12966, the SECDEF shall provide disaster assistance only: 1) at the direction of the President; or 2) with the concurrence of the Secretary of State (SECSTATE); or 3) in emergency situations to save human lives, where there is not sufficient time to seek initial concurrence of the SECSTATE.
- Per DoD Directive 5100.46, FDR/ER may be conducted upon receipt of an official request for assistance from the SECSTATE, after USAID's Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) receives a disaster declaration cable from the Chief of Mission.
- DoD FDR/ER missions must be validated by OFDA (as the lead USG agency), clearly defined, involve minimal risk to DoD assets, and should not affect core DoD missions.
- Types of assistance DoD normally provides in support of FDR/ER include transportation, supplies, services, and non-lethal equipment.
- DoD should not be considered an instrument of first resort, but may support FDR/ER when the military can provide a unique service, the civilian response capacity is overwhelmed, or civilian authorities request assistance.
- Under the Immediate Response Authority, the Combatant Commander may provide immediate life-saving assistance when there is not sufficient time to seek prior concurrence from the Department of State and/or the Office of the Secretary of Defense, but must report the actions taken to the National Military Command Center (NMCC) as soon as possible.
- DSCA manages the Overseas Humanitarian, Disaster, and Civic Aid (OHDACA) appropriation and provides guidance and funding to claimants in support of applicable FDR missions.
- DSCA can provide low-cost and nutritionally viable Humanitarian Daily Rations (HDRs) to support short-term feeding operations after man-made/natural disasters. HDRs are designed to provide one day worth of nutrition for people fleeing catastrophe and/or who are moderately malnourished.

Updated July 2012

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