

Emergency Support Function #16 MILITARY AFFAIRS

Lead Agency

- Department of Military Affairs (DMA)

Support Agencies and Organizations

- Joint Force Headquarters – Virginia
- Joint Force Headquarters – Joint Operations Center (JFHQ-JOC)
- Virginia Army National Guard
- Virginia Air National Guard
- Virginia Defense Force
- 34th Civil Support Team (CST) CBRNE Response Force Package

Purpose

Emergency Support Function (ESF) #16, as a member of the Virginia Emergency Response Team (VERT) integrates all supporting Department of Defense (DOD) and National Guard resources into the state's coordinated effort of emergency management within the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Scope & Applicability

Activities within ESF #16, in coordination with Joint Force Headquarters – Virginia (JFHQ-VA) are specific to processing and fulfilling requests for DMA assistance in the areas of, but not limited to, Command and Control (C2), transportation, engineering, communication, medical, logistics, security, aviation, maintenance, and Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosive (CBRNE) response capabilities.

Policies

- All agencies assigned responsibilities within this ESF will develop and maintain the necessary plans, standard operating procedures, mutual aid agreements, and model contracts to successfully accomplish their tasks.
- The Governor of Virginia is the Commander-in-Chief of all forces in the Commonwealth organized under the

DMA. The Adjutant General (TAG) of Virginia is the military commander.

- The Governor retains operational authority of all Federal or Reserve forces entering the Commonwealth to assist state authorities during an emergency, natural disaster, or other catastrophic incident/event. Only the President of the United States can supersede the Governor's authority in response to an emergency in the Commonwealth by assuming control of all military forces.
- All military forces entering the Commonwealth, either Title 10 and/or Title 32/State Active Duty sent via Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) from other states and territories in response to an emergency, will coordinate entry to any operational area and integration with Virginia forces through ESF#16 and the VERT.
- DMA units will not directly respond to requests for assistance from local officials except to save human life, prevent human suffering, or to prevent great damage to or destruction of property. DMA units will advise local officials to submit requests for assistance through the Virginia Emergency Operations Center (VEOC).

Organizational Structure

DMA staffs and mans its Joint Force Headquarters (JFHQ). Within the JFHQ is the Joint Operations Center (JOC) that is operational 24/7.

The Virginia Army National Guard, Virginia Air National Guard, and the Virginia Defense Force are three components that JFHQ-VA draw forces from to fulfill request for assistance requirements.

Concept of Operations

DMA provides a conduit, to the VERT, for National Guard (NG) support through ESF #16 operating within the VEOC.

JFHQ-VA processes requests for assistance and identifies appropriate NG capability/asset required to fulfill the needs of the requestor/ Incident Commander.

During response to requests for assistance, NG forces work under the direct command and control of NG officers and non-commissioned officers to execute assistance requirements of the requesting civilian authority/Incident Commander. Upon completion of the specific assistance requirements, NG forces are redeployed for refitting and reconstitution in preparation for follow-on assignments.

In the event DMA requires additional forces to fulfill the number of current or projected requests for assistance, JFHQ-VA will notify ESF#16 of needed or forecasted EMAC requirements.

To fulfill EMAC requirements, ESF#16 works in coordination with the VEOC EMAC Coordinator to execute EMAC requests. NG forces from other states entering the Commonwealth will perform their assignments under the command and control structure of DMA.

Roles & Responsibilities

Joint Force Headquarters – Virginia (JFHQ-VA)

- Serve as the DMA command and control element in all matters concerning Homeland Defense and Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA) and to facilitate the integration of the National Guard into civil authority.

Joint Force Headquarters – Joint Operations Center (JFHQ-JOC)

- Serve as the primary point of contact for JFHQ-VA for day-to-day operations and during DMA support of state emergency operations.

Virginia Army National Guard

- Maintain trained and equipped forces capable of performing federal and state missions.

Virginia Air National Guard

- Maintains trained and equipped forces capable of performing its federal and state missions.

Virginia Defense Force

- Maintain a force to augment staffing at JFHQ-VA, the VEOC, and ESF#16.

34th Civil Support Team

- Maintain a trained, equipped, and certified team capable of assessing a suspected Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) attack, advising civilian responders on appropriate actions through on-site testing and expert consultation, and of facilitating the arrival of additional state and federal military forces.

CBRNE Response Force Package

- Maintain elements that are trained and equipped to integrate into the National Incident Management System (NIMS) to plan and conduct casualty search and evacuation, medical triage and treatment, ambulatory and non-ambulatory decontamination, and fatality search and recovery.

Authorities & References

Authorities

- Virginia Emergency Services and Disaster Laws.

References

- Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP) 4.6.3: The emergency operations/response plan shall identify and assign specific areas of responsibility for performing essential functions in response to an emergency or disaster. Areas of responsibility to be addressed include: military support.

Attachment 1 – Defense Support to Civil Authorities

Purpose

The VEOC will request federal military assistance when required and in accordance with regulations. This includes support from the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Organizational Structure

The National Response Framework sets forth policies and concepts for federal disaster response. US Army North (ARNORTH) pre-designates the Defense Coordinating Officer (DCO) to serve as the point of contact for DOD support in disaster relief operations in Virginia.

The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is authorized (by Public Law 84-99) to supplement the efforts of state and local governments in a flood emergency.

Concept of Operations

The state leadership will request federal DSCA when state and local resources are exhausted or not available.

During emergency operations, the VEOC will normally access DSCA in coordination with FEMA in accordance with the National Response Framework. State and local governments may receive assistance directly from a nearby military base for immediate life-saving operations. Local military bases may also need to coordinate directly with state and local officials in the event of a military-caused accident affecting the civilian population.

In an imminent serious situation, commanders of active military installations are authorized to take prompt action to save human life, prevent extreme human suffering, or mitigate great destruction or damage of property.