

**EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION 20
MILITARY SUPPORT TO CIVIL AUTHORITIES**

ICS FUNCTION: Operations

LEAD: Department of Emergency Management (DEM)

SUPPORT: State of Washington Military Department
Emergency Management Division (EMD)
Naval Air Station Whidbey Island

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Purpose

1. To describe the circumstance and conditions under which units of the Washington State National Guard and the Department of Defense (DOD) can provide military support to Island County (military support to Civil Authorities - MSCA).
2. To describe procedures to obtain MSCA.

B. Scope

This Emergency Support Function (ESF) applies to all requests for military support originated by Island County following a local declaration of emergency.

II. RELATED POLICIES

This ESF is related to Support Annex D, Emergency Proclamations, Island County CEMP.

III. SITUATION

A. Emergency/Disaster Conditions and Hazards

Island County is vulnerable to the effects of flooding, extreme wind and storm, earthquake damage, and the possible effects of volcanic eruption. These hazards and others could cause damage, injury, civil unrest, and the need for increased response resources and security. The local resources of Island County could be quickly overwhelmed requiring personnel, equipment and skills contained in the military units stationed in Washington State. While other hazards are possible they are not expected to produce manpower and equipment requirements beyond normal Island County capabilities.

B. Planning Assumptions

1. The military is capable of providing a wide range of support to local governments in an emergency.
2. Military assistance is considered supplemental to local efforts and will not be requested unless and until applicable local resources have been, or will imminently be exhausted.
3. All military assistance, except requests during imminently serious situations as described herein, will be requested through the Washington State Military Department EMD.
4. Military support may be delayed until the Governor declares a State of Emergency, or there has been a Presidential Declaration.
5. It may take 48-hours or longer to receive military assistance.
6. When deployed to provide MSCA, military forces will work under the direction of local authority, but will retain their unit integrity and military chain of command.

IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

- A.** If Island County cannot satisfy a resource request or need with in-county or private assets, a resource request will be made to the state EOC as part of routine resource management activities. It will be up to the state to determine the appropriate means of meeting the county's request, including the use of military assets.
- B.** If the county EOC Logistics Section Chief is aware of a specific resource owned by the military and needed by the county, the specific resource may be requested by name as part of the request sent to the state EOC.
- C.** In an imminently serious situation, the county may request assistance directly from the military. An imminently serious situation is one in which there is an immediate threat to life and/or to property which will cause human suffering. A military unit commander can respond to direct requests for assistance, if:
 1. An imminently serious situation exists.
 2. The military unit is capable of providing the type of support requested without degrading its primary national defense commitments.

3. The military unit is the only source of help available including the private sector, or the only source of help including the private sector that can respond in time to support the county in alleviating the situation.
4. The Board of County Commissioners has proclaimed a local emergency (CEMP Basic Plan and Support Annex D)
5. The County or Washington State government is willing to certify to military authorities that conditions 1, 3, and 4 exists.
6. The county agrees to assume the costs incurred by the military unit to provide the requested support.

V. RESPONSIBILITIES

Director DEM or EOC Logistics Section Chief

1. Determine if and when a recommendation will be made to specifically request military assistance.
2. Prepare requests for military assistance in accordance with the provisions of paragraphs IV, A & B for routine requests, or paragraph IV, C for imminently serious situation requests.
3. Transmit all requests to the State EOC.
4. Identify suitable staging areas and coordinate logistic support with the responding unit, as appropriate.
5. Coordinate activities to ensure efficient use of requested assets.

VI. RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS

Resource requirements will be incident driven and must be identified as the incident moves into and through the response and recovery phases. Requests will be made only for capabilities not by unit name or type. The Washington State Military Department will assign the specific unit or units based on capabilities, availability, and priorities.

VII. REFERENCES

- A. Island County CEMP Basic Plan , References

- B.** Washington State Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan.
(CEMP), ESF 20, Military Support to Civil Authorities.

VII. TERMS AND DEFINITIONS

See Island County CEMP Basic Plan, Definitions and Acronyms