

Defense Support of Civil Authorities for Mortuary Affairs

North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD) and United States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM)

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Agenda

- NORAD-USNORTHCOM Quick Overview
- Military Mortuary Affairs – Roles, Missions, Forces
- How and when to request support

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Overview

- NORAD - A Bi-National Command (US, Canada)
 - Aerospace Warning and Control
- NORTHCOM – A Combatant Command
 - Homeland Defense
 - Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA)


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USNORTHCOM History

- Based on events of 9-11, the President wanted a single military command for homeland defense
- Secretary of Defense and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff recommended establishment of USNORTHCOM
- April 2002—announced by Secretary of Defense
- October 1, 2002—activated
- September 11, 2003—achieved Full Operational Capability




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Area of Responsibility


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USNORTHCOM

U.S. Regional Combatant Command

Relationships

- Coordinating
- COCOM/OPCON
- - Supported/Supporting



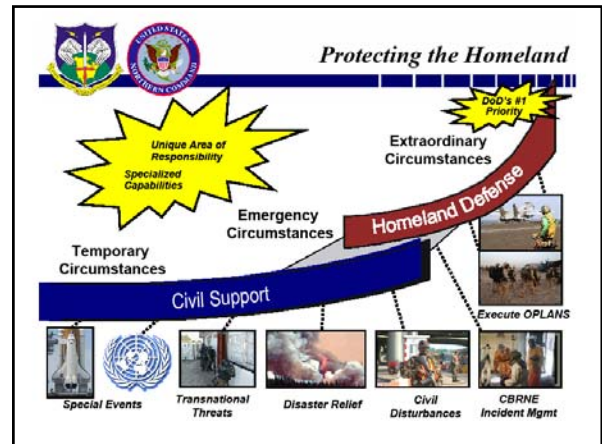
USNORTHCOM Mission

Conduct military operations to –

- Deter, prevent and defeat threats to the United States, its territories and interests within assigned area of responsibility
- Provide civil support and other assistance to US civil authorities as directed



USNORTHCOM defends America's homeland—protecting our people, national power, and freedom of action



Military Mortuary Affairs

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Responsibilities

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- In DoD, mortuary affairs is a logistics function. The primary responsible officer within USNORTHCOM is the Joint Mortuary Affairs Officer (JMAO) assigned to the Director of Logistics
- Under the National Response Plan, fatality management falls under ESF 8, Public Health and Medical Services. The Department of Health and Human Services is the primary responsible federal agency

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Jurisdiction

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DOD will almost always be in support of another federal agency or local authority

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Likely Requests for DOD Assistance

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- Search and Recovery*
- Decontamination*
- Identification
- Disposition (Mass Burial)
- Advisory Support

*National Capability Shortfalls

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Military Mortuary Affairs

- **Combatant Commands**
 - Recover the dead
 - Transport to a main collection point
 - Make and maintain records (custody, personal effects, tentative ID)
 - Coordinate transport to Dover AFB
 - Casualty reporting of assigned personnel to Services and DOD
- **Services (Army, Navy, USMC, USAF) with their installations**
 - Casualty Notification
 - Family Assistance
 - Grief counseling
- **Dover Port Mortuary / Armed Forces Medical Examiner and the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology**
 - Forensic expertise (autopsy, definitive ID)
 - Preparation for burial
 - Transfer to family/funeral home

Logistics Functions
(not Medical/Health)

There is **NO Fatality Management Office** in NC

- J4 – Recovery, transport
- J1 – Casualty reporting
- HC – Spiritual welfare and family support issues

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DOD Capability

- 54th Company (MA) USA, Ft Lee Va.-203
- 111th Company (MA) USA, Ft Lee VA. - 203
- 311th Company (MA) USAR, PR-203
- 246th Company (MA) USAR, PR-176
- Personnel Recovery & Processing Co USMC -140
- 512th Squadron (MA) USAF, Dover AFB-63
- Other Air Force Service Support Squadrons
- Joint POW and MIA Accounting Command HI-400
- Armed Forces Medical Examiners Office 4-7
- Armed Forces Institute of Pathology 9-11
- Dover Port Mortuary 8-10 (Expandable via Contracts)

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Search and Recovery

Response

Recovery Squads

- 2-10 MA Trained Personnel or
- Combination of MA and Non-MA workers
- Driver
- Eng/EOD (as required)

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- Embed with Law Enforcement
- Eng/EOD (as required)
- Cadaver Dogs

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Collection Points

6 PERSONNEL

Personnel No change
Setup 3 hours
Tear Down 15 hours
Mobility No offroad capability
Footprint 9,295 cubic feet of equipment

FUNCTIONS

- Initiate continual chain of custody for personal effects
- Establish Tentative ID (name Association)
- Provide dignity, reverence and respect
- Preserve remains in viewable condition
- Evacuate remains

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Mortuary Affairs Response Concept

Legal Authority

- County Coroners/Governor

Local Provider Tasks

- Direct Recovery/Integrate Finds
- Approve DOD Authorities
- Final Disposition Decision
- Notify NOK
- Contract Recovery Labor

Federal Non-DOD Tasks

- Deploy DMORT teams
- Employ Morgue Units
- Decon 50 /day
- Contract Refer Storage
- Contract recovery labor
- Operate Temp Storage
- DNA sampling

DOD Tasks

- Search and Recover Dead
- Operate Collection Points
- Decon 50 /day
- Reinforce DMORT Teams
- Conduct Temp Interment
- DNA typing and sampling

Hot Zone

Mobile Collection Points (I.E. NG or DOD)

Proposed Temp Interment

DECON

DMORT

TEMPORAL / MORTUARY Temp Storage, Local FEMA DNA Sampling, identify ID Send to NOK or Temp Inter DECON - if possible

CONTRACTED FORCE (TBD)

DOD FORCE Base: 2 MA Companies CC - CBI BN HQ

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MADCP

Mortuary Affairs Decontamination Collection Point (MADCP)

- 38 person Ad Hoc Team (12-14 MA) Can decon 30-48 remains in a 12 hour shift.
- Not sufficient for large number of remains (>1,000)

No capability exists in the United States to decontaminate a large number of remains

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Large Mass Fatality Event

Mass Temporary Interment

- Decision – Governor
- Army Mortuary Affairs Companies Trained
- Preserve DNA sample for ID later
- Record remains location referenced to DNA sample

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Armed Forces Medical Examiner

The Armed Forces Medical Examiner System

- The AFME – U.S. Navy Captain – Medical Doctor
- Oversees the following
 - 5 regional military medical examiners
 - Armed Forces Institute of Pathology
 - Dover Port Mortuary
- Exercises secondary jurisdiction and assists FBI
 - Space shuttle disaster
 - Pentagon 9/11

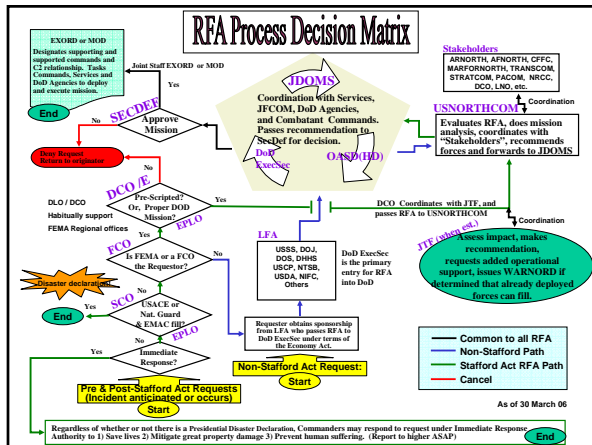
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Requesting Support

- FEMA
 - Manages Federal Response (including DOD)
 - Organized according to the Incident Command System
 - ESF 8 sends Requests for Assistance to FCO and DCO for action
- Federal Coordinating Officer
 - Approves requests for assistance
 - Coords with DCO
- Defense Coordinating Officer
 - Region IX – Col Mark Armstrong, Oakland CA
 - Locates at Joint Field Office
 - Interfaces directly with FEMA and FCO
 - Sends RFA/Mission Assignments higher for approval
 - Under the command of USNORTHCOM when activated

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Final Thoughts

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- No federal asset or plan exists to recover a large number of remains
- Command, control, and coordination of a mass fatality event will be complex and problematic
- The legal and procedural framework for a national response to a large mass fatality event needs to be created

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