

ESF 20: Defense Support to Civil Authorities

PRIMARY AGENCIES:

Walla Walla County Emergency Management

SUPPORT AGENCIES:

Mayors

Walla Walla County Commissioners

I. INTRODUCTION

A. Purpose

To establish procedures for requesting and using military assistance in Walla Walla County during times of an emergency.

B. Scope

Military units have specialized equipment, not otherwise available to local jurisdictions that may be needed in time of an emergency operation. They also have personnel that might be needed to support local jurisdictions.

II. POLICIES

A. While there are military units located in Walla Walla County, their use and activation requires action by the Washington State Governor and any requests for military assistance must be processed through the Washington State Department of the Military, Emergency Management Division (WAEMD)/ Washington State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC).

B. Military forces, either state or federal, will remain under and follow their military chain of command.

C. The Washington State Department of the Military Adjutant General deploys state active duty resources of the Washington State National Guard (WNG) in a state-funded status in response to an emergency involving imminent loss of life, to prevent great suffering and/or to mitigate great destruction of property, in accordance to state regulations and statutes.

III. SITUATION

A. An emergency or disaster could occur for which military assistance may be the best or only solution.

B. Any request for military assistance will be processed through Walla Walla County Emergency Management Department (WWEM) Operations Center (EOC) to WAEMD/SEOC.

C. The county and state have issued Disaster Declarations.

D. A military liaison person may be assigned to the WWEM EOC to an area wide (overlapping county jurisdiction) location where a task force has been established to coordinate the use of any military assets assigned to the event.

IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. General

The Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 38.08.040 provides that, upon the occurrence of certain events, the Governor has the power to order the organized militia of Washington or any part thereof into active service in order for Washington State to execute the laws and perform such services as the Governor shall deem proper. This power resides with the Governor or acting Governor alone, and may not be delegated to another person or agency.

B. Organization

1. The Washington State Military Department is made up of two military components: the Air National Guard and the Army National Guard. There are two civilian components: Washington State Emergency Management Division (WAEMD), and the Youth Academy. The Washington National Guard (WNG) is positioned in 27 cities throughout the state. Unit capabilities include engineering, communications, transportation, and aviation.
2. Coordination of military support to civil authorities will be performed by the Washington State Military Department.

C. Procedures

The various elements of the State of Washington Military Department will follow their internal Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) when in support of an emergency or disaster.

D. Mitigation Activities

Mitigation activities need to be done at the state level and are beyond the scope of this ESF (refer to Washington State Emergency Support Function 20 – Defense Support to Civil Authorities).

E. Preparedness Activities

During exercises and other emergency planning activities the possible use of military resources should be considered.

F. Response Activities

1. When requesting military assistance the WWEM EOC needs to request them for a specific mission. The request should not be for specific equipment and/or personnel. A few examples of mission requests are:
 - a. Provide air or land transportation for specific equipment or personnel.
 - b. Provide security and traffic control for a specific area, such as a city or county road.
 - c. Establish a mobile communications station.
 - d. Set up and operate a mass feeding station.
 - e. Establish a water purification station.

G. Recovery Activities

Response activities may need to continue through the recovery phase. However, the military personnel and equipment must be released before any civilian assets, serving the same purpose, are released.

V. RESPONSIBILITIES

A. County Commissioners and the Emergency Management Executive Board (EMEB)

1. Commissioners must issue a Disaster Declaration before requesting any military assets.
2. The EMEB member or members in the WWEM EOC must assign a specific mission to any military unit assigned to the county and designate who, in the field, they are to report to for instructions.
3. If a military liaison has not been assigned, someone in the WWEM EOC must be designated to coordinate the military operations.

B. Director WWEM

1. Ensure that WAEMD/SEOC gets a copy of the Disaster Declaration as soon as one is signed.
2. Keep WAEMD/SEOC advised on any potential need for military equipment or personnel that might be needed.
3. Include the potential use of military assets in exercises and other emergency management training that is planned by WWEM.

VI. RESOURCE REQUIREMENTS

- A. Request for military personnel and equipment must be consistent with unit capabilities.
- B. Loan of equipment will not be allowed if it diminishes a unit's capability to be self-supporting or unable to perform its basic mission.
- C. Whenever possible, requests for personnel and/or equipment will include its needed organic support.

VII. REFERENCES

- A. Revised Code of Washington (RCW) 38.08.040
- B. Washington Military Department, Emergency Management Division, Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP), ESF 20 – Defense Support to Civil Authorities

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