

DHS/EPR/FEMA staff and regional ESF representatives. The RRCC may also include a DOD Regional Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officer (REPLO) who assists in coordination of requests for defense support. Financial management activity at the RRCC is monitored and reported by the Comptroller. (The RRCC replaces the Regional Operations Center (ROC) in the FRP.)

Joint Field Office

The JFO is a multiagency coordination center established locally. It provides a central location for coordination of Federal, State, local, tribal, nongovernmental, and private-sector organizations with primary responsibility for threat response and incident support. The JFO enables the effective and efficient coordination of Federal incident-related prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery actions.

The JFO utilizes the scalable organizational structure of the NIMS ICS in the context of both pre-incident and post-incident management activities. The JFO organization adapts to the magnitude and complexity of the situation at hand, and incorporates the NIMS principles regarding span of control and organizational structure: management, operations, planning, logistics, and finance/administration. Although the JFO uses an ICS structure, the JFO does not manage on-scene operations. Instead, the JFO focuses on providing support to on-scene efforts and conducting broader support operations that may extend beyond the incident site.

As described in the NIMS, the JFO may also incorporate a sixth element focused on intelligence and information. This element may be included as a position in the Coordination Staff, a unit within the Planning Section, a branch within the Operations Section, or as a separate General Staff Section. The placement of the intelligence function is determined by the JFO Coordination Group based on the role intelligence plays in the incident and/or the volume of classified or highly sensitive information. Personnel from Federal departments and agencies, other jurisdictional entities, and private-sector and

nongovernmental organizations provide staffing for the JFO, generally through their respective ESFs.

The JFO fully replaces the DHS/EPR/FEMA Disaster Field Office (DFO), and accommodates all entities (or their designated representatives) essential to incident management, information-sharing, and the delivery of disaster assistance and other support.

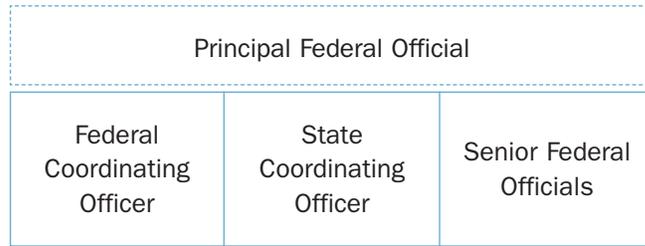
When activated to support an NSSE or other security coordination function, the DHS/U.S. Secret Service (USSS) Multiagency Command Center (MACC) and the FBI JOC are collocated at the JFO when possible. Other Federal operations centers collocate at the JFO whenever possible. In the event that collocation is not practical, Federal agencies are connected virtually to the JFO and assign liaisons to the JFO to facilitate the coordination of Federal incident management and assistance efforts. State, local, tribal, private-sector, and nongovernmental organizations are encouraged to assign liaisons to the JFO to facilitate interaction, communication, and coordination. Law enforcement activities are managed through the JOC, which becomes an operational branch of the JFO during terrorist-related Incidents of National Significance when required.

Threat situations or incidents that impact multiple States or localities may require separate JFOs. In these situations, one of the JFOs may be identified (typically in the most heavily impacted area) to provide strategic leadership and coordination for the overall incident management effort.

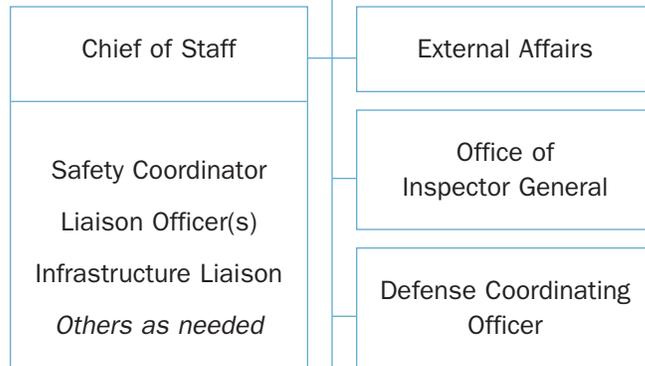
Figures 6 through 9 illustrate possible JFO organizational structures for various types of threat scenarios and incidents. Figure 6 illustrates the organization for natural disasters, Figure 7 shows modifications for terrorism, Figure 8 shows modifications for incidents involving Federal-to-Federal support, and Figure 9 depicts the JFO organization for an NSSE. All or portions of these organizational structures may be stood up based on the nature and magnitude of the threat or incident.

FIGURE 6. Sample JFO organization during natural disasters

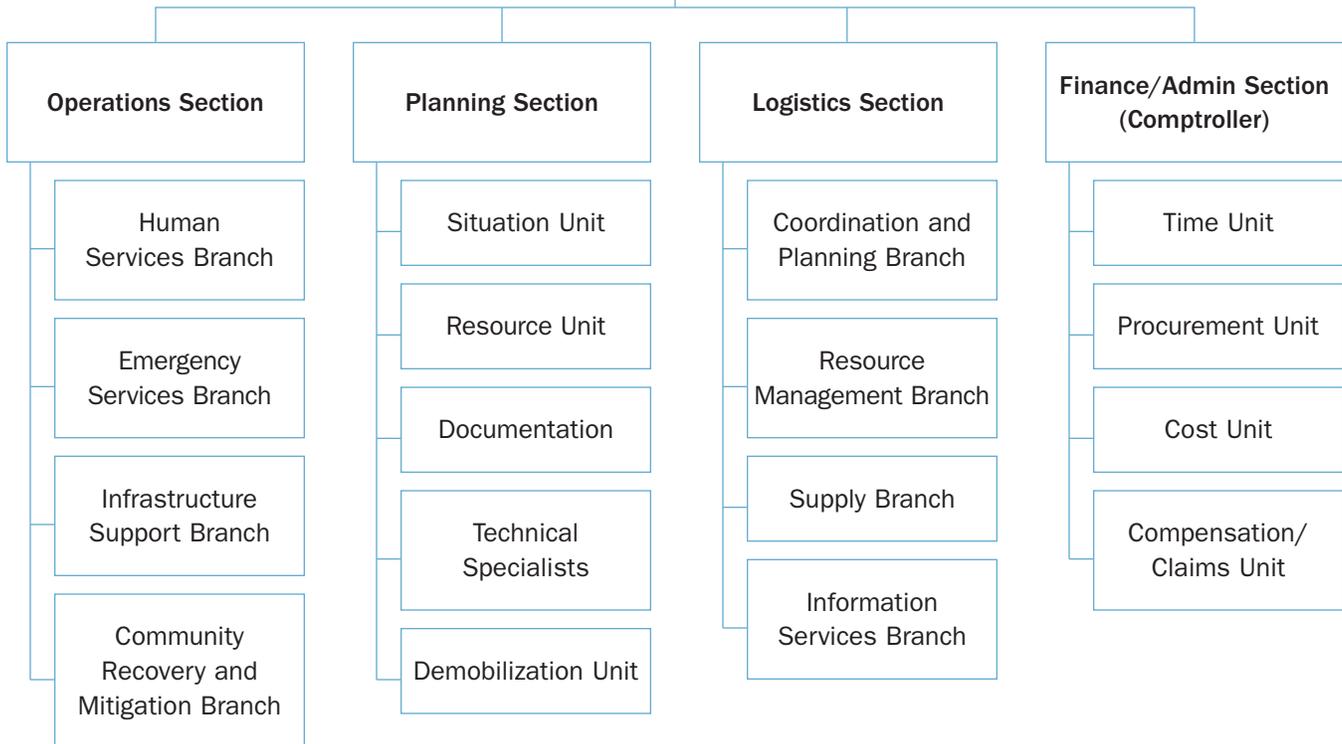
JFO Coordination Group



JFO Coordination Staff



JFO Sections



Note: Depending on the magnitude of the disaster, a Principal Federal Official may not always be designated, in which case the Federal Coordinating Officer will provide the Federal lead.

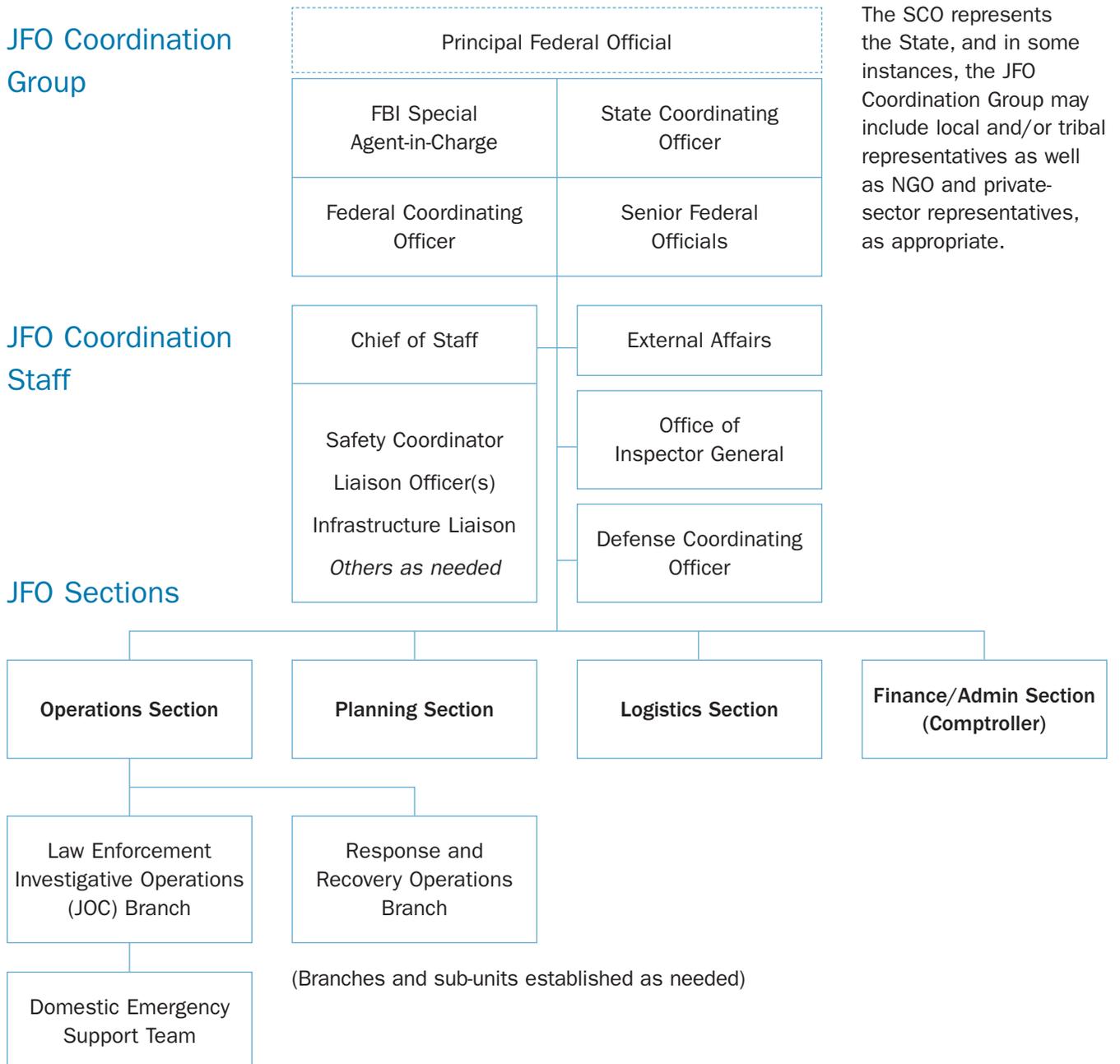
The State Coordinating Officer represents the State, and in some instances, the JFO Coordination Group may include local and/or tribal representatives as well as NGO and private-sector representatives, as appropriate.

JFO Organization for Terrorist Incidents

For terrorist threats or incidents, the establishment of the FBI JOC may precede the establishment of the other components of the JFO in time and may constitute the initial Federal coordinating presence locally. With the establishment of a JFO, the JOC is incorporated as a branch within the Operations Section (as shown in

Figure 7) with appropriate consideration given to the protection of sensitive law enforcement and investigative information within this structure. Utilizing the flexibility of NIMS, this JFO structure aids in the protection of sensitive information while fully integrating law enforcement operations with other incident management activities, as appropriate.

FIGURE 7. Sample JFO organization for terrorist incidents



JFO Organization for Federal-to-Federal Support

Other situations for which a JFO may be established include incidents managed by one or more Federal agencies that request DHS assistance or events that escalate to Incidents of National Significance, such as

an oil spill escalating to a Spill of National Significance. Again, the JFO organization is tailored to the incident (based on NIMS), and includes SFOs from agencies with relevant authority/jurisdiction as members of the JFO Coordination Group.

FIGURE 8. Sample JFO organization for Federal-to-Federal support



Note: An FRC is present if ESFs are activated, and will represent the DHS Secretary if a PFO is not assigned.

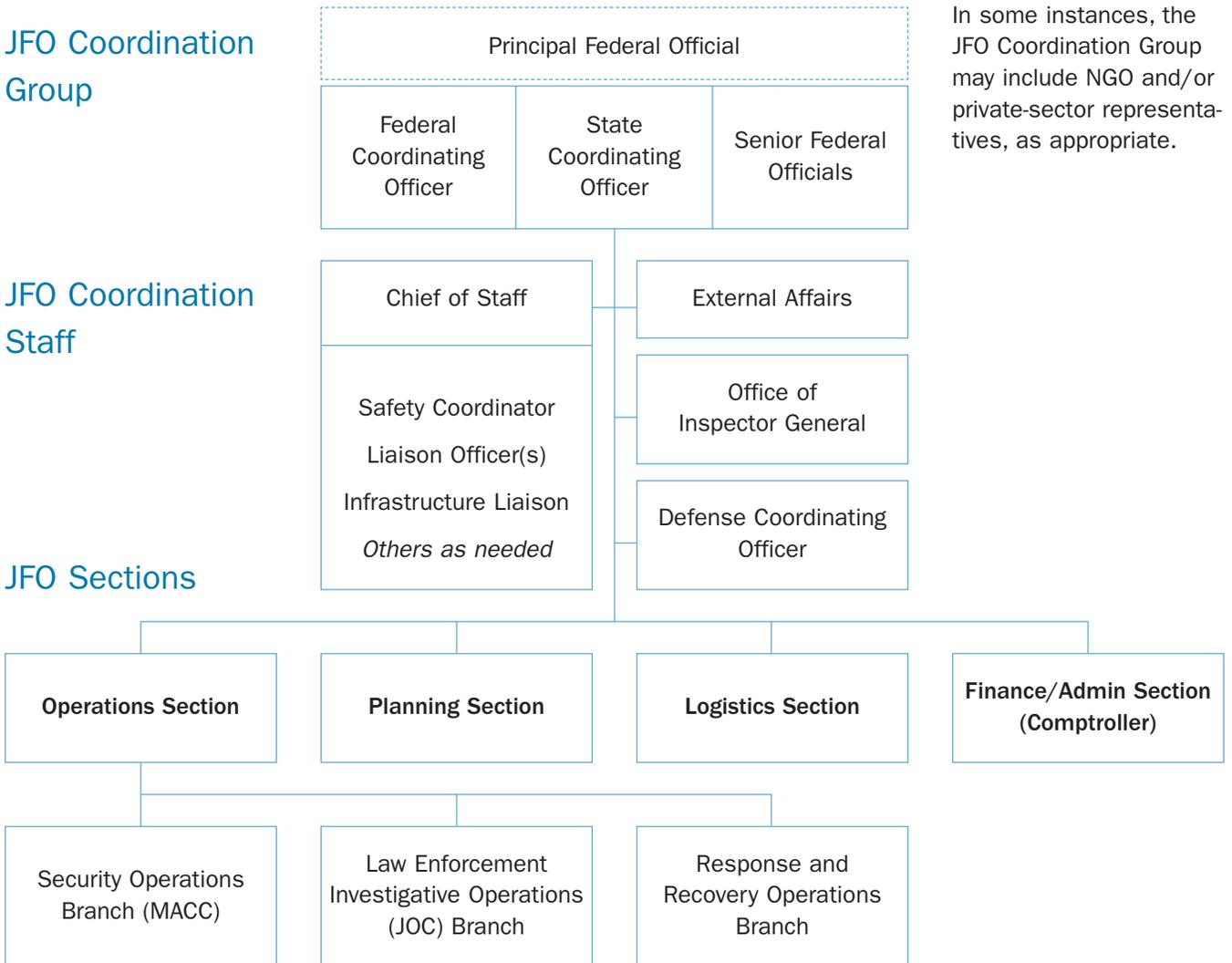
(Branches and sub-units established as needed)

JFO Organization for National Special Security Events

PDD-62 formalized and delineated the roles and responsibilities of Federal agencies in the development of security plans for NSSEs. HSPD-7 established the new process for designating events of national and international significance as NSSEs. Designated by the Secretary of Homeland Security, these events include summits of world leaders, meetings of international organizations, national political party conventions, and major national or international sporting events, which by virtue of their political, economic, social, or religious significance may be targets of terrorism or other criminal activity.

For NSSEs, DHS/USSS has primary responsibility for security design, planning, and implementation; FBI has primary responsibility for law enforcement, intelligence, hostage rescue, counterterrorism, and criminal investigation; and DHS/EPR/FEMA has primary responsibility for emergency response and recovery planning and coordination. These agencies work together using the principles of Unified Command, with a pre-designated PFO facilitating interagency incident management coordination during NSSE planning and execution. For these situations, the JFO combines the functions of the DHS/USSS MACC, the FBI JOC, and the Response and Recovery Operations Branch, as illustrated in Figure 9.

FIGURE 9. Sample JFO organization for National Special Security Events



In some instances, the JFO Coordination Group may include NGO and/or private-sector representatives, as appropriate.

(Branches and sub-units established as needed)

JFO Organization Components

The JFO organization components are described in the following sections.

JFO Coordination Group

Utilizing the NIMS principle of Unified Command, JFO activities are directed by a JFO Coordination Group, which may include the PFO, SFLEO, FCO/FRC, or other SFOs with primary jurisdictional responsibility or functional authority for the incident.

JFO Coordination Group

Principal Federal Official		
Federal Coordinating Officer	State Coordinating Officer	Senior Federal Officials

The JFO Coordination Group also includes a limited number of principal State, local, and tribal officials (such as the SCO), as well as NGO and private-sector representatives. The JFO Coordination Group functions as a multiagency coordination entity and works jointly to establish priorities (single or multiple incidents) and associated resource allocation, resolve agency policy issues, and provide strategic guidance to support Federal incident management activities. Generally, the PFO, in consultation with the FCO and SFLEO, determines the composition of the JFO Coordination Group. The exact composition of the JFO is dependent on the nature and magnitude of the incident, and generally includes the personnel described in the following subsections.

The JFO Coordination Group provides strategic guidance and resolution of any conflicts in priorities for allocation of critical Federal resources. If policy issue resolution cannot be achieved between JFO Coordination Group members, issues can be raised to the IIMG or through the appropriate agency chain of command for consideration by higher authorities. Unresolved resource issues are forwarded to the NRCC, then to the IIMG if further deliberation is required.

Principal Federal Official

The PFO is personally designated by the Secretary of Homeland Security to facilitate Federal support to the established ICS Unified Command structure and to coordinate overall Federal incident management and assistance activities across the spectrum of prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery. The PFO ensures that incident management efforts are maximized through effective and efficient coordination. The PFO provides a primary point of contact and situational awareness locally for the Secretary of Homeland Security. The Secretary is not restricted to DHS officials when selecting a PFO.

The PFO does not direct or replace the incident command structure established at the incident, nor does the PFO have directive authority over the SFLEO, FCO, or other Federal and State officials. Other Federal incident management officials retain their authorities as defined in existing statutes and directives. The PFO coordinates the activities of the SFLEO, FCO, and other Federal officials involved in incident management activities acting under their own authorities. The PFO also provides a channel for media and public communications and an interface with appropriate jurisdictional officials pertaining to the incident. Once formally designated, PFOs relinquish the conduct of all normal duties and functions. PFOs may not be “dual-hatted” with any other roles or responsibilities that could detract from their overall incident management responsibilities.

PFO Responsibilities

The specific roles and responsibilities of the PFO include the following:

- Representing the Secretary of Homeland Security as the lead Federal official;
- Ensuring overall coordination of Federal domestic incident management and resource allocation activities;
- Ensuring the seamless integration of Federal activities in support of and in coordination with State, local, and tribal requirements;
- Providing strategic guidance to Federal entities;
- Facilitating interagency conflict resolution as necessary;

- Serving as a primary, although not exclusive, point of contact for Federal interface with State, local, and tribal senior elected/appointed officials, the media, and the private sector;
- Providing real-time incident information to the Secretary of Homeland Security through the HSOC and the IIMG, as required;
- Coordinating response resource needs between multiple incidents as necessary, or as directed by the Secretary of Homeland Security;
- Coordinating the overall Federal strategy locally to ensure consistency of Federal interagency communications to the public;
- Ensuring that adequate connectivity is maintained between the JFO and the HSOC; local, county, State, and regional EOCs; nongovernmental EOCs; and relevant elements of the private sector; and
- Participating in ongoing steady-state preparedness efforts (as appropriate for PFOs designated in a “pre-incident” mode, when a threat can be ascribed to a particular geographic area).

For an actual incident, the Secretary may designate a local Federal official as an “initial PFO” until the primary PFO is in place. The initial PFO is accountable for the same responsibilities as the PFO. In certain scenarios, a PFO may be pre-designated by the Secretary of Homeland Security to facilitate Federal domestic incident planning and coordination at the local level outside the context of a specific threat or incident. A PFO also may be designated in a pre-incident mode for a specific geographic area based on threat and other considerations. The PFO may hand off duties to the FCO or other designated Federal official as appropriate after an event transitions to long-term recovery and/or cleanup operations.

The Secretary of Homeland Security announces designation of the PFO via a message from the HSOC to other Federal, State, and local emergency operations centers, as well as through a letter to the Governor/mayor of the affected jurisdiction(s).

The PFO and a small staff component may deploy with the Domestic Emergency Support Team (DEST) to facilitate their timely arrival and enhance initial situational awareness. The PFO and supporting staff conform to the deployment timelines and other guidelines established in DEST procedures including, but not limited to, those outlined in the MOU between

DHS and the FBI regarding the DEST program. Nothing in the NRP alters the existing DEST concept of operation or affects the mission of the DEST to support the FBI SAC at the scene of a weapons of mass destruction (WMD) threat or incident.

DHS conducts a formal training program for PFO-designates. Unless extenuating circumstances dictate otherwise, all PFO-designates should satisfactorily complete this training program prior to performing PFO-related responsibilities.

Federal Coordinating Officer

The FCO manages and coordinates Federal resource support activities related to Stafford Act disasters and emergencies. The FCO assists the Unified Command and/or the Area Command. The FCO works closely with the PFO, SFLEO, and other SFOs. In Stafford Act situations where a PFO has not been assigned, the FCO provides overall coordination for the Federal components of the JFO and works in partnership with the SCO to determine and satisfy State and local assistance requirements.

FCO Responsibilities

Roles and responsibilities of the FCO include the following:

- Conducting an initial appraisal of the types of assistance most urgently needed;
- Coordinating the timely delivery of Federal assistance to affected State, local, and tribal governments and disaster victims;
- Supporting the PFO, when one is designated;
- When delegated from the DHS/EPR/FEMA Regional Director, serving as Disaster Recovery Manager (DRM) to administer the financial aspects of assistance authorized under the Stafford Act;
- Working in partnership with the SCO (appointed by the Governor to oversee operations for the State) and the Governor’s Authorized Representative (GAR) (empowered by the Governor to execute all necessary documents for Federal assistance on behalf of the State); and
- Taking other such action consistent with the authority delegated to him/her as deemed necessary to assist local citizens and public officials in promptly obtaining assistance to which they are entitled.

Federal Resource Coordinator

In non-Stafford Act situations when a Federal department or agency acting under its own authority has requested the assistance of the Secretary of Homeland Security to obtain support from other Federal departments and agencies, DHS designates an FRC. In these situations, the FRC coordinates support through interagency agreements and MOUs. Relying on the same skill set, DHS may select the FRC from the FCO cadre or other personnel with equivalent knowledge, skills, and abilities.

The FRC is responsible for coordinating the timely delivery of resources to the requesting agency.

Senior Federal Law Enforcement Official

The SFLEO is the senior law enforcement official from the agency with primary jurisdictional responsibility as directed by statute, Presidential directive, existing Federal policies, and/or the Attorney General. The SFLEO directs intelligence/investigative law enforcement operations related to the incident and supports the law enforcement component of the Unified Command on-scene. In the event of a terrorist incident, this official will normally be the FBI SAC.

State/Local/Tribal Official(s)

The JFO Coordination Group also includes State representatives such as the SCO, who serves as the State counterpart to the FCO and manages the State's incident management programs and activities, and the GAR, who represents the Governor of the impacted State. The JFO Coordination Group may also include tribal and/or local area representatives with primary statutory authority for incident management.

Senior Federal Officials

The JFO Coordination Group may also include officials representing other Federal departments or agencies with primary statutory responsibility for certain aspects of incident management. SFOs utilize existing authorities, expertise, and capabilities to assist in management of the incident working in coordination

with the PFO, FCO, SFLEO, and other members of the JFO Coordination Group. When appropriate, the JFO Coordination Group may also include U.S. attorneys or other senior officials or their designees from DOJ to provide expert legal counsel.

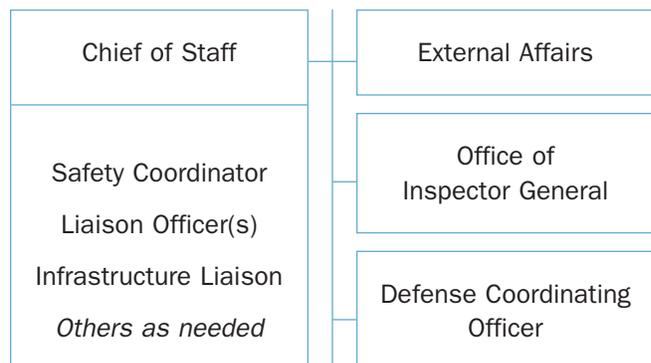
Responsible/Regulated Party

If the source of the incident is a privately owned facility or vessel, the JFO Coordination Group may also include a representative of the owners/operators of the facility or vessel.

JFO Coordination Staff

In accordance with NIMS and ICS principles, the JFO structure normally includes a Coordination Staff. The JFO Coordination Group determines the extent of staffing based on the type and magnitude of the incident.

JFO Coordination Staff



The following paragraphs provide information on typical staff positions.

Chief of Staff and Support Staff

The JFO Coordination Staff may include a Chief of Staff and representatives providing specialized assistance, which may include support in the following areas: safety, legal counsel, equal rights, security, infrastructure liaison, and other liaisons.

- The **Safety Coordinator** has the following roles:
 - 1) ensure that the Chief of Staff and the PFO receive coordinated, consistent, accurate, and timely safety and health information and technical assistance;

2) support the Safety Officer(s) at the ICP(s) by coordinating worker safety and health resources and providing technical assistance as necessary; and
3) ensure the safety of the personnel in the JFO. The Safety Coordinator may receive technical assistance from responding safety and health personnel by implementing the Worker Safety and Health Support Annex.

- **Legal Affairs** serves as the primary legal advisor to the JFO Coordination Group and may also work with each section chief to support programmatic, logistical, and personnel matters as required.
- The **Equal Rights Officer** serves to promote a discrimination-free workplace and equal access to recovery programs and benefits.
- The **Security Officer** is responsible for safeguarding JFO personnel and JFO facility security. When not assigned elsewhere, the Security Officer also is responsible for information security and operational security, ensuring that sensitive information of all types (e.g., classified information, sensitive law enforcement information, proprietary and personal information, or export-controlled information) is handled in a way that not only safeguards the information but also ensures that it gets to those who need access to it so that they can effectively and safely conduct their missions.
- **Liaisons** serve as the point of contact for assisting and coordinating activities with various agencies and groups, and are assigned as needed.
- The **Infrastructure Liaison**, designated by DHS/IAIP, serves as the principal advisor to the JFO Coordination Group regarding all national- and regional-level CI/KR incident-related issues. The Infrastructure Liaison:
 - Acts as liaison between the national- and regional-level CI/KR, the private sector, and JFO activities;
 - Coordinates CI/KR and ESF issues between the JFO Coordination Group and IAIP representatives located at the IIMG and NRCC;
 - Provides situational awareness concerning the affected CI/KR and provides periodic updates to the JFO Coordination Group; and
 - Communicates information to the IAIP representative at the IIMG, NRCC, and NICC.

External Affairs Officer

The External Affairs Officer provides support to the JFO leadership in all functions involving communications with external audiences. External Affairs includes Public Affairs, Community Relations, Congressional Affairs, State and Local Coordination, Tribal Affairs, and International Affairs, when appropriate. Resources for the various External Affairs Functions are coordinated through ESF #15. (See the ESF #15 Annex for more information.)

The External Affairs Officer also is responsible for overseeing operations of the Federal Joint Information Center (JIC) established to support the JFO. The following is a description of the JIC:

- The JIC is a physical location where public affairs professionals from organizations involved in incident management activities work together to provide critical emergency information, crisis communications, and public affairs support. The JIC serves as a focal point for the coordination and dissemination of information to the public and media concerning incident prevention, preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation. The JIC may be established at an on-scene location in coordination with State and local agencies depending on the requirements of the incident. In most cases, the JIC is established at, or is virtually connected to, the JFO and is coordinated by Federal and State lead Public Information Officers. In most Incidents of National Significance, the Federal lead will be a DHS Public Information Officer, who works with other Federal, State, local, tribal, NGO, and private-sector public affairs personnel. The JFO JIC works in close coordination with other JICs to integrate into a Joint Information System (JIS) providing consistent, coordinated, and timely information during an incident. (See the NIMS for more details on the JIS.)

The **JIC** serves as a focal point for the coordination and dissemination of information to the public and media concerning incident prevention, preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation.

- The JIC develops, coordinates, and disseminates unified news releases. News releases are cleared through the JFO Coordination Group to ensure

consistent messages, avoid release of conflicting information, and prevent negative impact on operations. This formal approval process for news releases ensures protection of law enforcement-sensitive information. Agencies may issue their own news releases related to their policies, procedures, programs, and capabilities; however, these should be coordinated with the JIC.

- The PFO is supported by a dedicated DHS Public Affairs Director who functions as the Press Secretary, coordinates media activities, provides strategic communications guidance to the JIC, and serves as a designated spokesperson when directed by the PFO and/or DHS Public Affairs.
- The following elements should be represented at the JIC: (1) DHS/EPR/FEMA Public Information Officer and staff; (2) FBI Public Information Officer and staff (when activated in support of a terrorist incident); (3) other Federal agency Public Information Officers, as required; and (4) State, local, tribal, and NGO Public Information Officers. (See the ESF #15 Annex and the Public Affairs Support Annex for additional information on the JIC, public outreach, and information dissemination.)

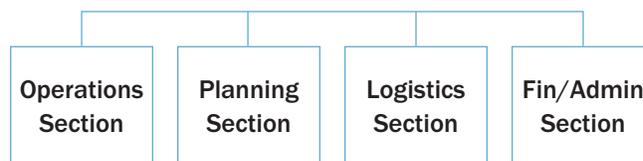
Defense Coordinating Officer

If appointed by DOD, the DCO serves as DOD’s single point of contact at the JFO. With few exceptions, requests for DSCA originating at the JFO are coordinated with and processed through the DCO. The DCO may have a Defense Coordinating Element (DCE) consisting of a staff and military liaison officers in order to facilitate coordination and support to activated ESFs. Specific responsibilities of the DCO (subject to modification based on the situation) include processing requirements for military support, forwarding mission assignments to the appropriate military organizations through DOD-designated channels, and assigning military liaisons, as appropriate, to activated ESFs.

JFO Sections

The JFO is organized into four sections: Operations Section, Planning Section, Logistics Section, and Finance/Administration Section (Comptroller).

JFO Sections

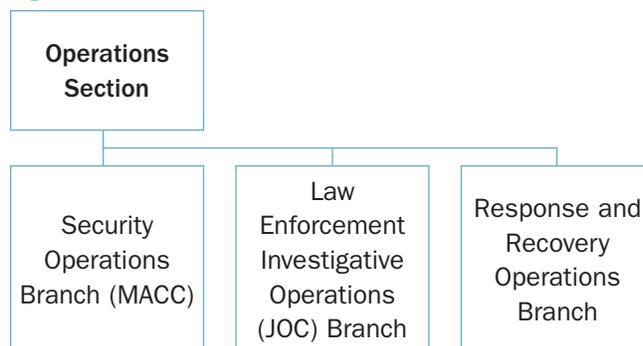


Operations Section

The Operations Section coordinates operational support to on-scene incident management efforts. Branches may be added or deleted as required, depending on the nature of the incident. The Operations Section also is responsible for coordination with other Federal command posts that may be established to support incident management activities.

For terrorist incidents, the Operations Section includes a Law Enforcement Investigative Branch and a Response and Recovery Branch. For NSSEs, a third branch, the Security Operations Branch, may be added to coordinate protection and security efforts.

Operations Section Branches



In these situations, the Operations Section Chief is designated by mutual agreement of the JFO Coordination Group based on the agency with greatest jurisdictional involvement and statutory authority for the current incident priorities. The agency providing the Operations Section Chief may change over time as incident priorities change. Each of the Operations Section branches is described below.

- **Law Enforcement Investigative Operations Branch/Joint Operations Center:** The JOC Branch is established by the SFLEO (e.g., the FBI SAC during terrorist incidents) to coordinate and direct law enforcement and criminal investigation activities related to the incident.

The JOC Branch ensures management and coordination of Federal, State, local, and tribal investigative/law enforcement activities. The emphasis of the JOC is on prevention as well as intelligence collection, investigation, and prosecution of a criminal act. This emphasis includes managing unique tactical issues inherent to a crisis situation (e.g., a hostage situation or terrorist threat).

When this branch is included as part of the JFO, it is responsible for coordinating the intelligence and information function (as described in NIMS), which includes information and operational security, and the collection, analysis, and distribution of all incident-related intelligence. Accordingly, the Intelligence Unit within the JOC Branch serves as the interagency fusion center for all intelligence related to an incident. All intelligence collected on-scene and through the investigation is gathered at the Intelligence Unit. Additionally, intelligence collected throughout the Intelligence Community that may directly relate to the incident is sent to the Intelligence Unit after being assessed and verified at the SIOC. The Intelligence Unit gathers this intelligence, declassifies it as necessary, and distributes to members of the JFO as appropriate. (See the Terrorism Incident Law Enforcement and Investigation Annex for more information on JOC functions.)

- **Response and Recovery Operations Branch:** The Response and Recovery Operations Branch coordinates the request and delivery of Federal assistance and support from various special teams. This branch is comprised of four groups: Emergency Services, Human Services, Infrastructure Support, and Community Recovery and Mitigation.
- **Security Operations Branch:** The Security Operations Branch coordinates protection and site security efforts, and incorporates the functions of the DHS/USSS MACC during NSSEs.

Planning Section

The Planning Section's function includes the collection, evaluation, dissemination, and use of information regarding the threat or incident and the status of Federal resources. The Planning Section is responsible for preparing and documenting Federal support actions, and developing strategic, contingency, long-term, and other plans related to the threat or incident, as needed.

The Planning Section provides current information to the JFO Coordination Group to ensure situational awareness, determine cascading effects, identify national implications, and determine specific areas of interest requiring long-term attention. The Planning Section also provides technical and scientific expertise. The Planning Section is comprised of the following units: Situation, Resource, Documentation, Technical Specialists, and Demobilization. The Planning Section may also include an Information and Intelligence Unit (if not assigned elsewhere) and an HSOC representative who aids in the development of reports for the HSOC and IIMG.

Logistics Section

This section coordinates logistics support that includes control and accountability for Federal supplies and equipment; resource ordering; delivery of equipment, supplies, and services to the JFO and other field locations; facility location, setup, space management, building services, and general facility operations; transportation coordination and fleet management services; information and technology systems services; administrative services such as mail management and reproduction; and customer assistance. The Logistics Section may include Coordination and Planning, Resource Management, Supply, and Information Services Branches.

Finance/Administration Section (Comptroller)

The Finance/Administration Section is responsible for the financial management, monitoring, and tracking of all Federal costs relating to the incident and the functioning of the JFO while adhering to all Federal laws, acts, and regulations. The position of the Financial/Administration Chief will be exclusively held by a Comptroller who serves as the Senior Financial Advisor to the team leader (e.g., FCO) and represents the coordinating agency's Chief Financial Officer (CFO) as prescribed by the CFO Act of 1990.

The Financial Management Support Annex provides guidance to ensure that funds are provided expeditiously and that financial operations are conducted in accordance with established law, regulations, and standards.

Other Incident Facilities

State, County, and Local Operations Centers

State, county, and local EOCs represent the physical location at which the coordination of information and resources to support incident management activities normally takes place. EOCs are typically organized by major functional discipline (fire, law enforcement, medical services, and so on); by jurisdiction (city, county, region, and so on); or, more likely, by some combination thereof.

State, county, and local EOCs facilitate the execution of local, State, and interstate mutual aid agreements to support on-scene operations. During Incidents of National Significance, the JFO works in coordination with the State, county, and local EOCs to support incident management efforts.

Incident Command Post

The tactical-level, on-scene incident command and management organization is located at the ICP. It is typically comprised of designated incident management officials and responders from Federal, State, local, and tribal agencies, as well as private-sector and nongovernmental organizations. When multiple command authorities are involved, the ICP may be led by a Unified Command, comprised of officials who have jurisdictional authority or functional responsibility for the incident under an appropriate law, ordinance, or agreement. The Unified Command provides direct, on-scene control of tactical operations and utilizes a NIMS ICS incident management team organization, typically including Operations, Planning, Logistics, and Finance/Administration Sections.

The ICP is usually located at or in the immediate vicinity of the incident site. The location is selected by the agency having primary jurisdictional authority for

managing the incident at this level. Generally, there is one ICP established for each incident. Depending on the number and location of incidents, there may be multiple ICPs managed by an Area Command.

Area Command/Unified Area Command

An Area Command is established to oversee the management of multiple incidents that are each being handled by a separate ICS organization or to oversee the management of a very large or complex incident that has multiple incident management teams engaged. The Area Command has the responsibility to set overall strategy and priorities, allocate critical resources according to priorities, ensure that incidents are properly managed, and ensure that objectives are met and strategies followed. Area Command becomes Unified Area Command when incidents are multijurisdictional.

Disaster Recovery Center (DRC)

When established in coordination with State and local jurisdictions, a DRC is a satellite component of the JFO and provides a central facility where individuals affected by a disaster can obtain information on disaster recovery assistance programs from various Federal, State, local, tribal, private-sector, and voluntary organizations.

Interim Operating Facility (IOF)

The IOF is a temporary field facility used by a DHS/EPR/FEMA-led ERT in the early stages of an incident when the team cannot operate at the State EOC due to space limitations or other reasons, and the JFO is not yet established. An IOF is generally located at or near the State EOC, or near the incident site. The IOF remains in operation until the JFO is established. Functions accomplished at the IOF include interaction with State representatives and key ESF agencies, collection and assessment of information, and initiation of assistance programs.

Emergency Response and Support Teams (Field Level)

Various teams are available to deploy during incidents or potential incidents to assist in incident management, set up emergency response facilities, or provide specialized expertise and capabilities. These teams are trained and certified to the standards published by the NIMS Integration Center. Teams that may be utilized during NRP operations are described below.

Deployed PFO Support Staff

The Deployed PFO Support Staff is a small interagency team of various subject-matter experts that may deploy or be activated with the PFO to provide initial support staffing until a JFO is established. This team may include representatives from various ESFs and typically

functions during the pre-incident phase or during the initial response to conduct assessments, coordinate security and information-sharing efforts, facilitate public affairs activities, and provide technical support. When the JFO is established, this team is integrated into the JFO staff.

Emergency Response Team

The ERT is the principal interagency group that staffs the JFO. The ERT is composed of DHS/EPR/FEMA staff and ESF personnel. The ERT includes an advance element, known as the ERT-A, that conducts assessments and initiates coordination with the State and initial deployment of Federal resources. Each DHS/EPR/FEMA region maintains an ERT ready to deploy in response to threats or incidents. The National Emergency Response Team (ERT-N) deploys for large-scale, high-impact events, or as required.

The **ERT** is the principal interagency group that staffs the JFO.

The ERT provides staffing for the JFO and ensures Federal resources are available to meet Federal incident management and State requirements identified by the SCO. The size and composition of the ERT is scalable depending on the scope and magnitude of the event.

Typically, the ERT organizational structure encompasses the JFO Coordination Group, JFO Coordination Staff, and the four JFO sections (Operations, Planning, Logistics, and Finance/Administration).

The ERT-A deploys during the early stages of an incident. It is headed by a team leader from DHS/EPR/FEMA and is composed of program and support staff and representatives from selected ESF primary agencies. A part of the ERT-A deploys to the State EOC or to other locations to work directly with the State to obtain information on the impact of the

event and to identify specific State requests for Federal incident management assistance. Other elements of the ERT-A (including MERS personnel and equipment) deploy directly to or near the affected area to establish field communications, locate and establish field facilities, and set up support activities.

The **ERT-A** deploys during the early stages of an incident to work directly with the State to obtain information on the impact of the event and to identify specific State requests for Federal incident management assistance.

The ERT-A consults and coordinates with State, local, and/or tribal entities to determine the location of the JFO and mobilization center(s). The ERT-A identifies or validates the suitability of candidate sites for the location of mobilization center(s) and the JFO. The ERT-A conducts initial on-the-ground situational awareness analysis to include changes in topography caused by the incident, impacts to the physical and social environment, and documentation of losses avoided based on previous mitigation measures to serve as a backdrop to the Federal support strategies.

An ERT-N may pre-deploy based on threat conditions. The Secretary of Homeland Security determines the need for ERT-N deployment, coordinating the plans with the affected region and other Federal agencies.

The **ERT-N** deploys for large-scale, high-impact events, or as required.

The ERT-N includes staff from DHS/EPR/FEMA Headquarters and regional offices as well as other Federal agencies. (Three ERT-N teams are structured, with one team on call every third month. A fourth standing team is on call year-round exclusively to manage incidents in the National Capital Region (NCR).)

Federal Incident Response Support Team (FIRST)

The FIRST is designed to be a quick and readily deployable resource to support the Federal response to Incidents of National Significance. The FIRST deploys within 2 hours of notification, to be on-scene within 12 hours of notification. DHS/EPR/FEMA maintains and deploys the FIRST.

The **FIRST** is a forward component of the ERT-A that provides on-scene support to the local Incident Command or Area Command structure.

The FIRST is a forward component of the ERT-A that provides on-scene support to the local Incident Command or Area Command structure in order to facilitate an integrated interjurisdictional response. After linking up with local and State officials, the team assesses the situation and identifies the potential requirements for Federal support, provides protective action recommendations, identifies critical unmet needs, and coordinates response activities with other Federal responders. They also oversee on-scene Federal assistance, which could include critical life-saving and life-sustaining items.

The FIRST is not intended to supplant existing response teams, but to bring a near-time immediate Federal presence to the scene of an Incident of National Significance. The FIRST is robust enough to represent a “value-added” resource in the earliest phase of a response operation. Upon the subsequent deployment

of an ERT, the FIRST integrates into the Operations Section of the JFO.

Other Federal Teams

In addition, there are numerous special teams available to support incident management and disaster response and recovery operations. Examples include:

- Damage assessment teams
- Nuclear Incident Response Team (NIRT)
- Disaster Medical Assistance Teams (DMATs)
- HHS Secretary’s Emergency Response Team
- DOL/OSHA’s Specialized Response Teams
- Veterinarian Medical Assistance Teams (VMATs)
- Disaster Mortuary Operational Response Teams (DMORTs)
- National Medical Response Teams (NMRTs)
- Scientific and Technical Advisory and Response Teams (STARTs)
- Donations Coordination Teams
- Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) task forces
- US&R Incident Support Teams
- Federal Type 1 and Type 2 Incident Management Teams (IMTs)
- Domestic Emergency Support Team (DEST)
- Domestic Animal and Wildlife Emergency Response Teams and mitigation assessment teams

Many of these additional teams and capabilities are discussed in the annexes. Other supporting documents provide additional listing of teams and their capabilities, such as DHS/EPR/FEMA’s Emergency Teams Handbook and the DHS/USCG Hazardous Materials Response Special Teams Handbook.

Defense Support of Civil Authorities

DOD provides DSCA in response to requests for assistance during domestic incidents to include terrorist attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies. DSCA refers to DOD support provided by Federal military forces, DOD civilians and contract personnel, and DOD agencies and components, in response to requests for assistance. Continuous coordination with Federal, State, local, and tribal elements before, during, and after an event is essential for efficient and effective utilization of DOD’s DSCA efforts.

DSCA refers to DOD support provided by Federal military forces, DOD civilians and contract personnel, and DOD agencies and components, in response to requests for assistance during domestic incidents to include terrorist threats or attacks, major disasters, and other emergencies.

In most instances, DOD provides DSCA in response to requests for assistance from a lead or primary agency. However, support provided under Immediate Response

Authority (described below) is authorized by DOD directive and prior approval of the Secretary of Defense. DSCA normally is provided when local, State, and Federal resources are overwhelmed, provided that it does not interfere with the Department's military readiness or operations. DOD typically provides DSCA on a reimbursable basis as authorized by law.

Requesting Defense Support of Civil Authorities

Initial requests for assistance are made to the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Executive Secretariat. If approved by the Secretary of Defense, DOD designates a supported combatant commander for the response. The supported combatant commander determines the appropriate level of command and control for each response and usually directs a senior military officer to deploy to the incident site. Under most circumstances, the senior military officer at the incident site is the DCO. The DCO serves as DOD's single point of contact in the JFO.

Requests for DSCA originating at the JFO will be coordinated and processed through the DCO with the exception of requests for USACE support, National Guard forces operating in State Active Duty or Title 32 status (i.e., not in Federal service), or, in some circumstances, DOD forces in support of the FBI. These exceptions are detailed later in this section. Specific responsibilities of the DCO are subject to modification by the supported combatant commander based on the situation. In general, the DCO will:

- Collocate with the PFO/FCO/FRC/SFLEO in the JFO;
- Coordinate and process applicable requests for assistance from the PFO/FCO/FRC/SFLEO or designated representative;
- Orchestrate the accomplishment of approved mission assignments utilizing available resources;
- Assign military liaison officers as appropriate to ESF agencies at the JFO to provide technical assistance or facilitate timely coordination; and
- Refer problematic or contentious issues through the appropriate military chain of command to the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense.

Based on the magnitude, type of disaster, and anticipated level of resource involvement, the supported combatant commander may utilize a Joint Task Force (JTF) to consolidate and manage supporting

military activities. A JTF commander exercises operational control of all allocated DOD resources (excluding USACE resources, National Guard forces operating in State Active Duty or Title 32 status, and, in some circumstances, DOD forces in support of the FBI). In the event that a JTF is utilized, the DCO may continue to perform all duties set forth above.

Exceptions

Requests for DSCA originating at the JFO will be coordinated and processed through the DCO with the exception of requests for DOD/USACE support, National Guard forces operating in State Active Duty or Title 32 status, and, in some cases, DOD forces in support of the FBI.

- **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:** USACE is a public engineering organization within DOD providing engineering support and services to DOD activities around the globe as well as to the Nation's Civil Works flood protection and navigation infrastructure. USACE provides support as a primary agency and coordinating agency for ESF #3, and as a support agency to other ESFs as specified in the annexes. USACE performs emergency support activities under separate authorities, to include Public Law 84-99.
- **Army and Air National Guard Forces:** National Guard forces employed under State Active Duty or Title 32 status are providing support to the Governor of their State and are not part of Federal military response efforts.
- **Support to the Federal Bureau of Investigation:** Support for law enforcement and domestic counterterrorism activities is provided in limited circumstances consistent with applicable laws and, in some circumstances, independent of the DCO.

Immediate Response Authority

Imminently serious conditions resulting from any civil emergency may require immediate action to save lives, prevent human suffering, or mitigate property damage. When such conditions exist and time does not permit approval from higher headquarters, local military commanders and responsible officials from DOD components and agencies are authorized by DOD directive

and pre-approval by the Secretary of Defense, subject to any supplemental direction that may be provided by their DOD component, to take necessary action to respond to requests of civil authorities consistent with the Posse Comitatus Act (18 U.S.C. § 1385). All such necessary action is referred to as “Immediate Response.”

Export of DOD Specialized Capabilities and Training

In addition to direct support for incident response, DOD possesses specialized capabilities employed in

support of Federal, State, local, and tribal government agencies, to include their first responder communities. Included among these specialized capabilities are test and evaluation facilities and capabilities; education and exercise expertise; explosive detection; technical escort; medical services; the transfer of applicable technologies, including those developed through DOD science and technology programs; and the expertise of DOD personnel. The DOD Homeland Defense Coordination Office established at DHS Headquarters facilitates interdepartmental cooperation and transfer of these capabilities to the emergency responder community.

Federal Law Enforcement Assistance

Each State has jurisdiction for enforcement of State law, using State and local resources, including the National Guard (to the extent that the National Guard remains under State authority and has not been called into Federal service or ordered to active duty).

The Federal Government has jurisdiction for enforcement of Federal law, using Federal resources. State and local law enforcement agencies may be

requested to provide support to Federal law enforcement during Incidents of National Significance.

Federal agencies may be requested to provide public safety and security support during Incidents of National Significance. The ESF #13 Annex provides further guidance on the integration of public safety and security resources to support the full range of incident management functions.

Proactive Federal Response to Catastrophic Events

The NRP establishes policies, procedures, and mechanisms for proactive Federal response to catastrophic events. A catastrophic event is any natural or manmade incident, including terrorism, that results in extraordinary levels of mass casualties, damage, or disruption severely affecting the population, infrastructure, environment, economy, national morale, and/or government functions. A catastrophic event could result in sustained national impacts over a prolonged period of time; almost immediately exceeds resources normally available to State, local, tribal, and private-sector authorities in the impacted area; and significantly interrupts governmental operations and emergency services to such an extent that national security could be threatened. All catastrophic events are Incidents of National Significance.

Implementation of Proactive Federal Response Protocols

Protocols for proactive Federal response are most likely to be implemented for catastrophic events involving chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, or high-yield explosive weapons of mass destruction, or large-magnitude earthquakes or other natural or technological disasters in or near heavily populated areas.

Guiding Principles for Proactive Federal Response

Guiding principles for proactive Federal response include the following:

- The primary mission is to save lives; protect critical infrastructure, property, and the environment; contain the event; and preserve national security.

- Standard procedures regarding requests for assistance may be expedited or, under extreme circumstances, suspended in the immediate aftermath of an event of catastrophic magnitude.
- Identified Federal response resources will deploy and begin necessary operations as required to commence life-safety activities.
- Notification and full coordination with States will occur, but the coordination process must not delay or impede the rapid deployment and use of critical resources. States are urged to notify and coordinate with local governments regarding a proactive Federal response.
- State and local governments are encouraged to conduct collaborative planning with the Federal Government as a part of “steady-state” preparedness for catastrophic incidents.

Implementation Mechanisms for Proactive Federal Response to Catastrophic Events

The NRP Catastrophic Incident Supplement (described in the Catastrophic Incident Annex) addresses resource and procedural implications of catastrophic events to ensure the rapid and efficient delivery of resources and assets, including special teams, equipment, and supplies that provide critical life-

saving support and incident containment capabilities. These assets may be so specialized or costly that they are either not available or are in insufficient quantities in most localities.

The procedures outlined in the NRP Catastrophic Incident Supplement are based on the following:

- The pre-identification of Federal assets and capabilities;
- The strategic location of pre-identified assets for rapid deployment; and
- The use of pre-scripted mission assignments for Stafford Act declarations, or individual agency authority and funding, to expedite deployment upon notification by DHS (in accordance with procedures established in the NRP Catastrophic Incident Supplement) of a potential catastrophic event.

Agencies responsible for these assets will keep DHS apprised, through the HSOC, of their ongoing status and location until the JFO is established. Upon arrival at the scene, Federal assets will coordinate with the Unified Command, the SFLEO, and the JFO (or its forward elements) when established. Demobilization processes, including full coordination with the JFO Coordination Group, are initiated either when the mission is completed or when it is determined the magnitude of the event does not warrant continued use of the asset.

U.S. Possessions and Freely Associated States

The NRP concept of operations, in general, is applicable to any response to Incidents of National Significance occurring within the U.S. possessions, including the insular areas,² as well as in the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.³ Stafford Act assistance is available to include Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, which are included in the definition of “State” in the Stafford Act. At present, Stafford Act assistance is also available to

the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands under the Compact of Free Association.⁴

Nevertheless, there are unique factors involved in working with the U.S. possessions and Freely Associated States. The Department of the Interior (DOI), through the Office of Insular Affairs, is responsible for coordinating relationships with the insular areas and the Freely Associated States and is available to serve as a resource for agencies with disaster assistance responsibilities.

² Insular areas include American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

³ The Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands are two of the Freely Associated States under the Compact of Free Association. The U.S. Government does not provide disaster assistance to the Republic of Palau, the third Freely Associated State, in accordance with the Compact of Free Association.

⁴ The mechanism for the provision of disaster assistance to the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands has been renegotiated. Following enactment by Congress of legislation approving the new mechanism, it is anticipated that the U.S. Agency for International Development will assume the lead role in the provision of disaster assistance to these independent nations.

External Affairs

This section discusses the mechanisms for ensuring accurate, consistent, and timely communications with all of the critical external audiences—the general

public, media, congressional and governmental leaders, and the international community. (See the Public Affairs and ESF #15 Annexes for additional information.)

Component	Description
Public Affairs	<p>Public Affairs activities ensure the coordinated and timely release of incident-related prevention, preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation information to the public. ESF #15 provides the interagency coordination mechanisms and the resource support for Federal JIC activities.</p> <p>The Public Affairs Support Annex provides an overview of the required protocols and processes for media relations and incident communications, including protocols for handling sensitive information, which are further outlined in the NRP Incident Communications Emergency Supplement (published as a separate document).</p>
Community Relations	<p>Community Relations activities provide information on assistance programs to affected individuals, groups, organizations, and local governments. Community Relations serves as a direct link to these communities and works closely with program elements to deliver messages relating to the availability of programs and resources.</p>
Congressional Affairs	<p>Congressional Affairs provides information to the Washington, DC, and district offices of Members of Congress and addresses incident-related questions, concerns, and problems expressed by their constituents.</p>
International Affairs	<p>International Affairs provides guidance for events that include cross-border issues, coordination of foreign visitors, and response to offers of assistance from foreign governments. (See the International Coordination Support Annex for additional information.)</p>
State and Local Coordination	<p>State and Local Coordination assists JFO leadership with direct communications, interaction, and outreach to local and State elected officials. (See the ESF #15 Annex for additional information.)</p>
Tribal Affairs	<p>Tribal Affairs provides procedures to facilitate incident management programs and resources available to tribal governments to assist them in protecting their families, community livelihood, and cultural and environmental resources. (See the Tribal Relations Support Annex for additional information.)</p>