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DOMESTIC SUPPORT OPERATIONS

**HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US MARINE CORPS**

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DOMESTIC SUPPORT OPERATIONS

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PREFACE

PURPOSE

This manual provides the capstone doctrine for US Army and US Marine Corps domestic support operations. It also provides general information to civilian authorities at federal, state, and local levels involved in planning for and conducting such operations. It identifies linkages and defines relationships with federal, state, and local organizations and with other services that have roles and responsibilities in domestic support operations.

SCOPE AND APPLICABILITY

This doctrine applies to all Army and Marine Corps commanders and staff tasked with planning, preparing for, and conducting domestic support operations. For overseas theaters, this doctrine applies to US unilateral operations only, subject to applicable host nation laws and agreements.

USER INFORMATION

This publication was developed by the Army Doctrine Directorate at Headquarters, Training and Doctrine Command (HQ TRADOC) with the participation of the Doctrine Division (C42) at Marine Corps Combat Development Command (MCCDC). HQ TRADOC, with MCCDC, will review and update this publication as necessary. Send comments and recommendations directly to—

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Unless this publication states otherwise, masculine nouns and pronouns do not refer exclusively to men.

INTRODUCTION

Domestic support operations are not new. They had their beginning with settlement of the new world and organization of the colonial militia. With the establishment of the United States and a federal military, the Army routinely provided support to state and territorial governors as the nation expanded westward. In some instances, it actually administered governmental affairs until the fledgling local government became a viable entity.

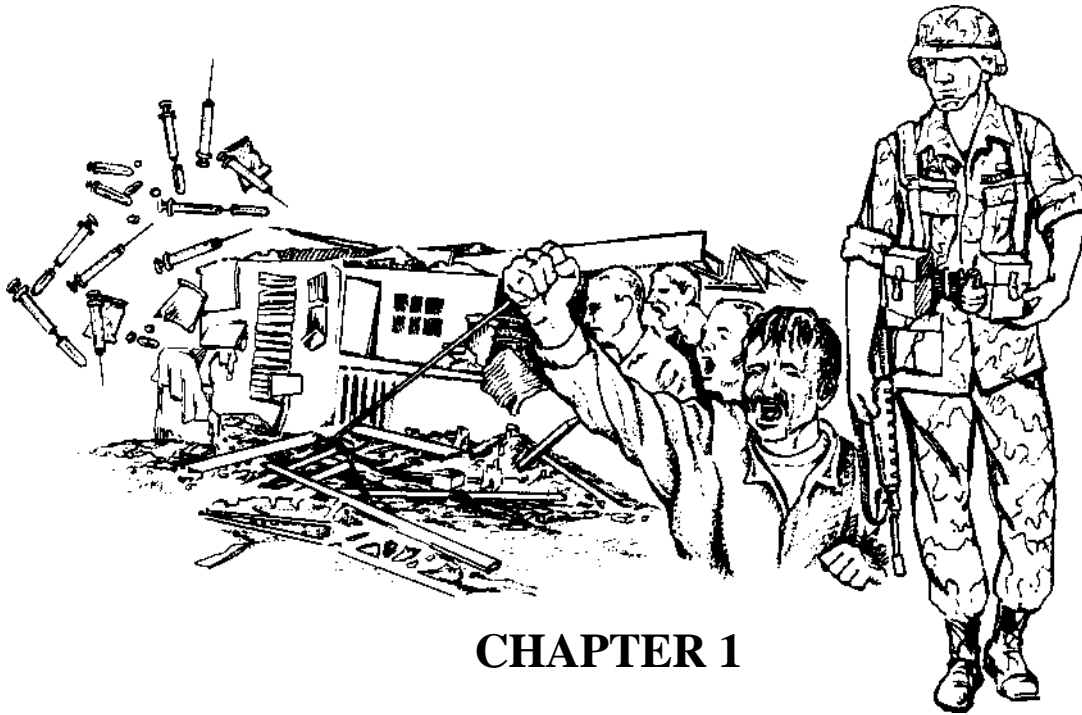
Congress has determined and the National Command Authorities have directed that the military should become more engaged in supporting domestic needs. In addition, the National Security Strategy “Domestic Imperative” affirmed that national security must be viewed in the context of the nation’s well-being.

Acknowledging the inherent capabilities the Army possesses for supporting federal, state, and local governments, the Congress has passed numerous laws providing for domestic military support. These laws recognize that the National Guard, while in state status, has primary responsibility for providing initial support when military assistance is required. They also institutionalize interdepartmental and interagency coordination/planning, linking it to the national strategy.

Commanders should anticipate requirements to provide emergency assistance and use domestic support opportunities to enhance unit and individual wartime skills. The Army, particularly the National Guard and Army Reserve, with its extensive combat support and combat service support (CS/CSS) structure, is ideally equipped to assist civil authorities in a wide variety of missions that fall into four general categories: disaster assistance, environmental assistance, law enforcement support, and community assistance.

Although the frequency of domestic support operations may increase, they are not in lieu of wartime operational requirements. The Army’s primary mission remains to defend the United States and its interests. It is the Army’s combat readiness that enables it to accomplish domestic support operations.

This manual provides specific guidelines and operational principles in the conduct of domestic support operations. It emphasizes the utilization of the Army’s core combat competencies and values to enhance combat readiness and the overall well-being of the nation.



CHAPTER 1

CONCEPT AND PRINCIPLES

This chapter presents a brief historical perspective and concept of Army domestic support operations, the principles of operations other than war that apply to these operations, and a description of the Army's role. The Army consists of the active component (AC), the Army National Guard (ARNG), the US Army Reserve (USAR), and Department of Army (DA) civilians. The National Guard (NG), in a state or territorial status, has primary responsibility for providing military assistance to state and local civil authorities.

HISTORY AND CATEGORIES OF DOMESTIC SUPPORT

A domestic support operation is the authorized use of Army physical and human resources to support domestic requirements.

Since the Army's inception, its mission has been to fight and win the nation's wars. At the same time, the Army has provided general military support to the

nation, including participation in a wide variety of activities to assist civilian authorities. The Army has enforced laws, quelled domestic violence and insurrection, combatted terrorism, participated in public works and environmental projects, and assisted in recovery operations following disasters.

The dramatic end of the Cold War caused significant changes in the nation's domestic and foreign priorities. During the Cold War, national attention was directed to the external threat and related issues. Today, along with a shift from a forward deployed to a force projection strategy is a new awareness of the benefits of military assistance to improve the nation's physical and social infrastructure. The Army's focus on and continuing involvement in all aspects of domestic support operations identified the need for published doctrine.