

Highlights of Stakeholder Issues for Exercise United Response Raised at the Forum on Military Support to Civil Authorities

Held 23 October at the Alameda Co. Sheriff's Office, Office of Emergency Services

Forum Overview

Purpose. The purpose of the Forum was to provide Bay Area stakeholders an opportunity to gain awareness from the California National Guard on how the California Military Department augments local and state authorities in a catastrophic event and to provide a preview and chance to become involved in planning Exercise United Response. *A key objective of the Forum was to gain input from stakeholders on issues and injects that could be included in the Exercise.* The Forum was organized by the Bay Area Center for Regional Disaster Resilience, a non-profit organization that assists regional stakeholders to work together to identify ways to make the Bay Area more disaster resilient. San Jose Water Company provided lunch for the Forum participants to enable them to remain after the meeting for further discussion.

Focus and Format. The Forum went exceptionally well, with positive feedback received from participants on the utility of the event in raising their understanding of the military role and capabilities. More than 85 stakeholders participated from Bay Area utilities and critical infrastructures, businesses, local government, state, and federal agencies, including FEMA, EPA, and Coast Guard, and public health and non-profit organizations. CalEMA Regional Administrator Jim Brown provided strongly supportive opening remarks on the importance of military support in a catastrophic disaster scenario. LTC Stan Zezotarski provided a well-executed, informative overview of the military mission and Exercise United Response, and CPT Derrick Brooks did a great job over-viewing capabilities. The discussion during the presentations was conversational and highly interactive, with participants asking questions or making comments that were ably addressed by LTC Zezotarski, CPT Brooks, and by Regional Administrator Brown, who remained throughout the event. Most participants stayed to continue informal discussion with National Guard representatives after the Forum adjourned over box lunches for another hour.

Issues Raised by Participants that could be included in Exercise United Response:

1. Support for response to chemical, biological, and radiological releases, including decontamination
2. Provision of search and rescue capabilities
3. Transportation of critical infrastructure equipment and components
4. Support for provision of emergency power generators to utilities/service providers
5. Support for mass evacuations from hospitals and establishment of field hospitals
6. Logistics support for regional hospital surge

7. Supplemental medical asset deployment
8. Logistic support for antibiotic dispensing to critical infrastructure personnel
9. Isolation and quarantine enforcement and support
10. Support for setting up temporary mortuaries
11. Assisting in the provision of fuel to utilities, hospitals, and other critical service providers
12. Logistics to support distribution of water, food, and other critical supplies, etc.
13. Support for delivery of potable water trucks and chemicals for water treatment
14. Support for transport (road, air, and maritime) and set up of emergency mobile communications networks, including use of helicopters to move mobile cell sites
15. Support for meeting security needs (for hospitals, transport of fuel and other essential commodities, etc.)
16. Assistance with establishing temporary housing for displaced individuals
17. Provision of support to sites that could be used for safe havens
18. Debris removal
19. Hazmat removal and destruction
20. Addressing structural integrity needs

General policy and coordination issues that should be included in the UR scenario:

- Coordination/communications among local, state, and federal government (civilian and military) concerning resources and other needs
- Resource request process and how resources will be prioritized
- Tracking of stakeholder resource requests and providing updates of where their request for assistance is in the process
- Loss of communications and impacts on military support to response operations
- Involvement of volunteers in activities supported by military assets
- Exploration in the exercise of timeframes for getting various military resources deployed
- Dealing with the lack of a common language and military use of acronyms stakeholders can't understand
- Provision of military support to assist small and medium businesses (it was noted at the Forum that the National Guard should reach out to Chambers of Commerce to gain this information and give talks to Bay Area business groups to facilitate interaction with representatives from large and medium businesses)
- National Guard/military role initial recovery

For further information: Paula Scalingi, pscalingi@bayareacrdr.org, 925-683-3101