



Department of Defense
DIRECTIVE

AD-A272 376



December 28, 1988
NUMBER 6010.17

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ASD(HA)

SUBJECT: National Disaster Medical System (NDMS)

- References:
- (a) DoD Directive 3020.36, "Assignment of National Security Emergency Preparedness (NSEP) Responsibilities to DoD Components," November 2, 1988
 - (b) DoD Directive 3025.1, "Use of Military Resources During Peacetime Civil Emergencies Within the United States, Its Territories, and Possessions," May 23, 1980
 - (c) DoD Directive 5136.9, "Civilian-Military Contingency Hospital System," June 2, 1980 (hereby canceled)
 - (d) Public Law 97-174, "Veterans Administration and Department of Defense Health Resources Sharing and Emergency Operations Act," May 4, 1982
 - (e) through (g), see enclosure 1

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A. PURPOSE

This Directive:

1. Implements reference (a).
2. Defines the military health care role, as stated in reference (b), by establishing DoD policy for DoD participation in the NDMS.
 - a. The NDMS is a joint Federal, State, and local mutual aid organization for a coordinated medical response in time of war, U.S. national emergency, or major U.S. domestic disaster.
 - b. Other Federal Agencies that share responsibilities include the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and the Veterans Administration (VA).
 - c. The NDMS supersedes reference (c).

B. APPLICABILITY

This Directive applies to the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), the Military Departments including their Reserve components, the Joint Staff, the Unified and Specified Commands, the Inspector General of the Department of Defense (IG, DoD), the Defense Agencies, and the DoD Field Activities (hereafter referred to collectively as "DoD Components"). The term "Military Departments," as used herein, refers to the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Marine Corps.

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C. POLICY

It is DoD policy that:

1. The NDMS shall respond to the health care requirements of major mass casualty incidents resulting from the following:
 - a. Catastrophic disaster within the United States.
 - b. Conventional military conflict involving U.S. Armed Forces.
2. The NDMS is activated by the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs) (ASD(HA)) for support of military contingencies when casualties exceed the combined capabilities of the VA/DoD contingency care system (P.L. 97-174, reference (d)).
3. The NDMS may be activated by the Director of FEMA, or the Assistant Secretary of Health, DHHS, in response to a U.S. domestic disaster, and the DoD Components shall participate in relief operations to the extent compatible with U.S. national security.

D. RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs) (ASD(HA)) shall:
 - a. Coordinate DoD NDMS functions with other civilian Federal Agencies and Military Departments. NDMS organization and management is described in the "Statement of the Senior Policy Group for Health and Medical Preparedness," (reference (e)).
 - b. Provide NDMS policy and planning guidance to responsible DoD Components.
 - c. Ensure that the Military Departments effectively implement and manage assigned NDMS responsibilities.
 - d. Establish and oversee an NDMS claims processing system.
 - e. Maintain liaison with the American National Red Cross, the American Hospital Association (AHA), the American Medical Association (AMA), the National Association of State Emergency Medical System Directors, and other responsible emergency preparedness organizations.
 - f. Activate the NDMS in time of war or U.S. national emergency when DoD and VA bed capability is insufficient to provide adequate treatment for casualties returning from an overseas combat theater.
 - g. Monitor implementation, testing, and operation of the NDMS. Develop and maintain an automated capability to monitor organization, facility, and personnel participation as well as patient distribution and administration through the Defense Medical System Support Center (DMSSC).

2. The Joint Staff shall:

- a. Ensure the integration of the NDMS with contingency and mobilization plans.
- b. Participate in the evaluating and testing of the NDMS activation and system operation during command post and field training exercises.
- c. Assume overall responsibility for providing military support to the U.S. civilian population during wartime.

3. The Secretaries of the Military Departments shall:

- a. Issue departmental regulations covering NDMS activities, in accordance with OSD policies.
- b. Operate and manage assigned NDMS responsibilities.
- c. Program and budget for assigned NDMS responsibilities.
- d. Establish and maintain military patient administration teams (MPAT) to provide personnel, financial, and medical record support for military patients in VA, civilian, and Military Services hospitals.

4. The Secretary of the Army shall serve as the DoD Executive Agent for military support of civilian disaster relief to ensure that DoD planning and response include military health care commitments to the NDMS.

5. The NDMS Regional Coordinators at DoD Medical Facilities shall:

- a. Represent the NDMS as liaison for participating civilian hospitals, health professional organizations, and applicable Federal, State, and local officials within the assigned NDMS region. Guidelines for operations are in the "National Disaster Medical System Coordinating Center Guide" and the "Disaster Medical Assistance Team Organization Guide" (references (f) and (g)).
- b. Execute cooperative agreements for participation of civilian health care organizations in the NDMS.
- c. Develop and maintain plans for the management of NDMS patients transferred into the area.
- d. Support the VA, the DHHS, and the FEMA in developing and maintaining civilian elements of the NDMS.
- e. Coordinate NDMS education and training programs for participating hospitals and area health personnel.
- f. Maintain required documentation of NDMS area status according to reference (f).
- g. Coordinate an annual NDMS area exercise.

h. Formulate, submit, and justify requests for NDMS resource requirement for assigned NDMS responsibilities.

6. The Director, Armed Services Medical Regulating Office, shall:

- a. Serve as the medical regulating Agency for the NDMS.
- b. Support the planning, testing, and operation of the NDMS.

7. The U.S. Transportation Command shall:

a. Coordinate patient movement for the NDMS through the Military Airlift Command (MAC), Military Sealift Command (MSC), and the Military Traffic Management Command (MTMC).

b. Coordinate planning to meet the transportation requirements of the supported Commanders in Chief (CINCs) and other Agencies.

c. Coordinate with the Department of Transportation (DoT) for the movement of medical supplies and equipment following peacetime disasters.

d. Support the planning, testing, and operation of the NDMS.

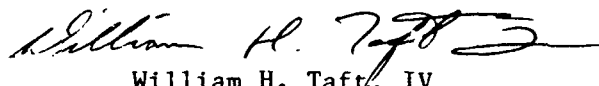
8. The Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) shall:

a. Assist in identifying and providing excess and surplus military equipment and other materiel to the DoD Executive Agent for use by civilian elements of the NDMS.

b. Coordinate the procurement and/or acquisition, or provide from existing inventory, consumable military medical supplies, equipment, and other items needed for the medical response to a domestic disaster.

E. EFFECTIVE DATE AND IMPLEMENTATION

This Directive is effective immediately. Forward one copy of implementing documents to the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Health Affairs) within 180 days.



William H. Taft, IV
Deputy Secretary of Defense

Enclosure
References

Dec 28, 88
6010.17 (Encl 1)

REFERENCES, continued

- (e) "Statement of the Senior Policy Group for Health and Medical Preparedness," September 1, 1987¹
- (f) "National Disaster Medical System Coordinating Center Guide," March, 1985¹
- (g) "Disaster Medical Assistance Team Organization Guide," July 25, 1986¹

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¹ Available from: NDMS, O&D(HA), Pentagon, Washington, D.C. 20301-1200
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