

## CHAPTER 3

### RESPONSIBILITIES OF OTHER AGENCIES

#### 3-1 GENERAL

Several agencies/ organizations outside the Department of Defense (DoD) have roles in a nuclear weapon accident response. Each agency 's/organization's responsibilities are situation dependent. Their involvement may be as a direct result of their responsibilities, interagency agreements, the Federal Radiological Emergency Response Plan (FRERP), reference (c), bilateral agreements, theater policy, or in response to a request for assistance.

#### 3-2 PURPOSE AND SCOPE

This chapter provides an overview of Federal, State, and local government agency responsibilities, and capabilities. The DoE and FEMA have numerous nuclear weapon accident responsibilities. Conversely, some agencies have no specific response roles, but do have capabilities useful to response organizations.

#### 3-3 DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

a. The DoE is responsible for dispatching appropriate DoE response elements, on request, to the scene of a DoD or DoE nuclear weapon accident or incident. The specific **elements and** equipment will be tailored by DoE to best meet the accident or incident situation, and will be coordinated with the DoE Joint Nuclear Accident Coordinating Center (JNACC).

b. The DoE has established an Accident Response Group (ARG) as its primary accident response element. The ARG is managed by the Manager, Albuquerque Operations Office and is comprised of scientists, technical specialists, crisis managers, and equipment ready for short notice dispatch to the scene of a nuclear accident. The ARG will advise and assist the DoD On-Scene Commander (OSC) through the DoE Team Leader in weapon recovery operations and in evaluating, collecting, handling, and mitigating radioactive and other weapons associated hazards. Other DoE assets, for example, the Aerial Measurement System (AMS), will be a part of the ARG, when required.

c. While at a DoD accident, the ARG provides technical support to the DoD and will support all needs and policies of the DoD OSC for on-site activities. A definition of on-site is found in the GLOSSARY.

d. The ARG provides technical advice and assistance to the OSC in:

- (1) Supporting Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) teams in weapon render safe and recovery procedures.
- (2) Determining the extent of any on-site hazards.
- (3) Minimizing hazards to on-site workers and the public.
- (4) Collecting, identifying, packaging, and disposing of weapon components, weapon debris, and the resulting radioactive material.
- (5) Identifying and protecting nuclear weapon design information and other restricted data.
- (6) Discussing with State, local, or foreign country government officials matters of special DoE competence.
- (7) Explaining public affairs matters, particularly in weapons and radiological hazards.

e. The ARG will be headed by the DoE Team Leader who will:

- (1) Coordinate the activities of all DoE response elements.
- (2) Advise the DoD OSC of DoE response capabilities available at the scene or which may be obtained.

f. The ARG includes a Senior Scientific Advisor who will provide technical advice and assistance regarding weapons and radiological health and safety matters.

g. The ARG provides liaison to the Joint Information Center (JIC).

h. The ARG provides one or more experienced individual to help manage the Joint Hazard Evaluation Center (JHEC) for the OSC.

i. The DoE Radiological Assistance Program (RAP) Regional Coordinating Offices responding to a nuclear

weapon accident or significant incident in the United States shall:

(1) Support the DoE ARG through the DoE Team Leader, as directed by the Director, Headquarters DoE Operational Emergency Management Team (**OEMT**).

(2) Provide technical advice and assistance to the State, local, and county government emergency response forces through the DoE Team Leader, if requested.

(3) Represent the DoE, if first on the scene, until the DoE Team Leader arrives.

(4) Initiate monitoring off-site as outlined in the FRERP, reference (c).

j. Nuclear Emergency Search Team (NEST). The NEST is a DoE team of scientists, engineers, and technicians trained and organized to provide rapid technical assistance in locating nuclear weapons or special nuclear material. The NEST has special equipment for conducting radiation searches and detection, field communications, EOD support, bomb/weapon diagnostics, hazard prediction, damage mitigation, and decontamination. The NEST is managed by the Manager, Nevada Operations Office, Las Vegas, Nevada. NEST assets may be included as a part of the DoE ARG.

### 3-4 DEPARTMENT OF STATE (**DoS**)

a. Under the direction of the Secretary of State, the **DoS** exercises diplomatic and political control of the **US** response to a nuclear weapon(s) accident outside the **U.S.**, its territories and possessions. In the host country, responsibilities rest specifically with the **U.S. Chief of Mission (COM)** who will be the focal point for diplomatic and political decisions of the **U.S.** government. The **COM**:

(1) Will be the senior **U.S.** government official in communication with officials of the government involved with whom he will coordinate **U.S.** response/recovery actions.

(2) Has the overall responsibility for **U.S.** government diplomatic actions responding to a nuclear weapon accident / incident and will direct the activities of the **U.S.** embassy and its constituent posts.

(3) Shares with the Unified Commander the responsibility for resolution of the situation. In fulfilling those responsibilities, the **COM** will be assisted by a team from the embassy's Emergency Action Committee (**EAC**) with augmentation required by the situation. Liaison officers from the embassy will be provided to assist the **OSC** and the **JIC**, at a minimum.

b. From the onset of the accident/incident, the **COM** and **USCINC** will consult regarding military operations in view of their potential impact on **U.S.** political interests. Any differences not resolved in theater will be relayed immediately to Washington for resolution in joint messages which will include as action addressees the White House, Secretary of State, Secretary of Defense, and Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, with information copies to other concerned parties.

c. The **DoS** activates an accident/incident task force in the Operations Center and provides liaison officers to agencies as agreed in existing plans or at the time of the accident.

### 3-5 FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (**FEMA**)

When the **FRERP** is implemented, **FEMA** is responsible for coordinating response actions among Federal agencies and assistance requests from State and local governments during a nuclear weapon accident in the **U. S.**, its territories, or possessions, and/or causing an effect into Canada or Mexico. Activities at the scene of the accident include coordinating requests from State and local governments for assistance from Federal agencies. Also, **FEMA** ensures that off-site actions and response activities of Federal, State, and local officials are mutually supportive and coordinated with the on-site actions of **DoD** and **DoE**. This **FEMA** role is implemented by a Senior **FEMA** Official (**SFO**).

a. **FEMA** will dispatch the **SFO** and an Emergency Response Team (**ERT**) to the scene of a nuclear weapon accident or incident when the accident has an effect outside of **DoD** or **DoE** facility boundaries. In addition to the **SFO**, the **ERT** consists of a deputy **SFO** (**DSFO**), an administrative officer, a communications officer, a public information officer, and others as required by the situation.

b. The **SFO** will establish a Federal Response Center (**FRC**) at a location either **pre-selected** with the State(s) and **DoD** or established at the time of the emergency at a location identified in conjunction with the State. The **FRC** will be located near the accident scene, but outside the **NDA**, to avoid restrictions on access by representatives from other Federal agencies, State, and local authorities. Each Federal agency at the scene is represented in the **FRC**. The **FRC** may also have representation from State emergency services organizations and volunteer agencies. The Service Response

Force (SRF) should assign a liaison officer to the FRC and/ or coordinate information exchange.

c. The SFO or DSFO will provide a liaison representative to the OSC.

d. The SFO or DSFO will assist the OSC, as requested, in developing and evaluating protective action recommendations.

e. The SFO will supply coordinated information on the Federal response to the State and/or local government officials.

### 3-6 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (USDA)

The functions and capabilities of the USDA to provide radiological assistance in the event of a nuclear weapon accident include the following areas:

a. Provide assistance through regular USDA programs if legally adaptable to radiological emergencies.

b. Provide emergency food coupon assistance in officially designated disaster areas when a threshold of need is determined by State and Federal officials and the commercial food system is sufficient to accommodate food coupons.

c. Provide listings of locations of alternate sources of livestock feed.

d. Provide advise to State and local officials regarding the disposition of livestock and poultry contaminated by radioactive material.

e. Ensure the wholesomeness of meat and meat products, poultry and poultry products, and egg products identified for interstate commerce.

f. Provide for the procurement of food.

g. Assist State and local officials, in coordination with HHS and EPA, in the recommendation and implementation of protective measures to minimize exposure by contaminated food ingestion.

h. Assist in coordinating with HHS and EPA, in the emergency production, processing, storage, and distribution of food through the wholesale level during a radiological emergency.

i. Assess damage to agricultural resources.

j. Provide advice to State and local officials on minimizing losses to agricultural resources from radiation effects.

k. Provide information and assistance to farmers, food processors and distributors to aid in returning to normal after a radiological emergency.

1. Assist in reallocation of USDA donated food supplies from warehouses, local schools, and other outlets to emergency food centers. These are foods donated to various outlets through USDA food programs administered by the Food and Nutrition Service.

m. Provide a liaison to State agricultural agencies to keep State and local officials informed of Federal efforts.

n. Assist DoE at the FRMAC in collecting agricultural samples within the 50-mile Ingestion Pathway Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ).

o. Assist in providing available temporary housing for evacuees.

### 3-7 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (HHS)

a. The HHS can provide:

(1) Guidance to State and local governments on the use of radio-protective substances, including dosage, and projected radiation doses which warrant usage of such drugs.

(2) Advice to medical care personnel regarding proper medical treatment of people exposed to, or contaminated by, radioactive material.

(3) Advice and guidance to State and local officials in assessing the consequences of radiological accidents on the health of persons in the affected area.

(4) Resources, in conjunction with the USDA, ensuring that food and animal feeds are safe for consumption.

(5) Assistance, in coordination with USDA, in developing technical recommendations for State and local officials regarding protective measures for food and animal feeds.

b. The Center for Devices and Radiological Health (CDRH) is responsible for radiological health activities conducted in the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)

and provides the major source of radiation expertise within the Public Health Service. The FDA prescribes contamination levels for canned and/ or packaged foods} materials.

### 3-8 DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE (DoC)

a. DoC response functions for accidents involving nuclear weapons are:

(1) Estimate the damage to industrial resources and recommend measures to deal with problems of the industrial sector.

(2) Provide current and forecast meteorological information about wind direction and speed, boundary layer mixing, precipitation, and any other meteorological and hydrological parameters affecting radiological contamination.

(3) Provide a representative to both the on-site and off-site radiological monitoring agencies to coordinate meteorological and hydrological information and to arrange for supplemental meteorological measurements.

b. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is the primary agent within DoC responsible for providing radiological emergency assistance to Federal, State, and local organizations. The National Weather Service (NWS) is the focal point for radiological emergency coordination. The NWS maintains coordination with the National Ocean Service (NOS) and Coastal Zone Management, the National Environmental Satellite Data and Information Service (NESDIS), the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and the Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR). In an actual emergency, these offices take collective action to focus DoC resources and expertise to assist Federal, State, and local government offices in controlling and resolving a radiological emergency. NOAA's main responsibilities include:

(1) Acquiring weather data and providing weather forecasts in connection with the emergency.

(2) Disseminating weather and emergency information via NOAA Weather Radio.

(3) Assisting the FDA in assessing the safety of marine fishery products from radiological contamination.

(4) Providing current and forecast meteorological information about wind speed and direction, low-level stability, precipitation, and other meteorological and hydrological factors affecting the transport or dispersion of radiological materials.

### 3-9 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR (DoI)

a. DoI manages over 500 million acres of Federal lands and thousands of Federal natural resource facilities. DoI is responsible for these lands and facilities when threatened by a radiological emergency. In addition, DoI coordinates emergency plans for DoI-managed park and recreation areas with State and local authorities and operates DoI water resource projects to protect municipal and agricultural water supplies in cases of radiological emergencies.

b. DoI provides advice and assistance concerning hydrologic and natural resources, including fish and wildlife, to Federal, State, and local governments upon request. It is DoI policy to:

(1) Respond to incidents that affect or may affect its jurisdiction or resources.

(2) Respond to requests for assistance from the Cognizant Federal Agency, SFO, and State and local officials to the extent its mission and resources allow.

(3) Cooperate with relevant Federal, State, and local radiological response authorities and coordinate regional and field-level contingency plans.

### 3-10 DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DoT)

a. DoT participation during a nuclear weapon accident will be limited primarily to arranging special transportation activities and assistance in contacting consignors and consignees of shipments to or from the accident.

b. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA). The Associate Administrator for Air Traffic and Airway Facilities coordinates all FAA crisis management functions. The FAA's principal nuclear accident function is to direct, upon request, air traffic in and around the affected area.

### 3-11 ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA)

a. The Office of Radiation Programs of the EPA has responsibility for coordinating EPA response to requests for radiological assistance. The radiological assistance available consists of monitoring teams to measure environmental radiation, evaluate the extent of the contamination, and advise on the actions required for

protection of the public health and safety. Each team can collect samples for subsequent processing and analysis at its laboratory. The EPA has the responsibility for coordinating the intermediate and long term radiological monitoring function at a mutually agreed upon time with DoE.

b. The Director of Criteria and Standards of EPA is responsible for establishing radiation levels to protect the general public and to provide guidance for Federal agencies. EPA has prescribed guidelines for monitoring radioactive contamination of drinking water and exposures to the general population from nuclear activities.

c. The EPA has radiological assistance teams located in Montgomery, Alabama and Las Vegas, Nevada.

### **3-12 NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD (NTSB)**

The NTSB is responsible for transportation safety and may conduct or assist in an investigation of the accident and issue a report. In any case, a military accident investigation will be conducted in accordance with Service directives. The OSC should make provisions to assist and support the accident investigation to the maximum extent that public safety and weapon(s) recovery permits.

### **3-13 INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION (ICC)**

The ICC assists in arranging for or expediting emergency transportation of people or property moving interstate or of foreign commerce to or from distressed areas. Specifically, the ICC establishes priorities and expedites emergency surface transportation of people and property to or from areas impacted by the accident. Under the coordinating authority of the Secretary of Transportation, the ICC establishes the priorities for all surface transportation of people and property.

### **3-14 DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (HUD)**

HUD provides information on available housing/shelter for disaster victims or displaced persons and assists in

planning for and placing homeless victims by providing emergency housing and technical support staff within available resources.

### **3-15 GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION (GSA)**

GSA provides service, administrative supplies, facilities, and equipment within available resources.

### **3-16 NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION (NASA)**

NASA coordinates the response and recovery operations for downed NASA spacecraft which may carry nuclear materials.

### **3-17 NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION (NRC)**

The NRC provides personnel who can quickly assess the nature and extent of the radiological emergency and its potential on and off-site effects on public health and safety. The NRC provides this information to the appropriate State and local agencies. Also, the NRC has radiological monitoring equipment and mobile radiological laboratories to assist in the analysis of environmental contamination and has public information personnel and technical experts who can be used to assist in public information efforts.

### **3-18 STATE/LOCAL GOVERNMENT/ HOST NATION**

Off-site authority and responsibility at a nuclear weapon accident rests with State and local officials. It is important to recognize that land placed temporarily under Federal control by the establishment of NDA or NSA to protect U.S. Government material or classified property and materials, will revert to State control upon disestablishment of the NDA or NSA. The State governor is responsible for the health, safety, and welfare of individuals within the territorial limits of the State during periods of emergency or crisis. The OSC will assist the State in ensuring that the public is protected. The Host Nation retains Sovereignty over its soil and the responsibility for the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens.