

# Mississippi Emergency Support Function #16 – Military Support to Civil Authorities Annex

---

## ESF #16 Coordinator

Mississippi Military Department

## Federal ESF Coordinator

Defense Coordinating Officer

## Primary Agencies

Mississippi Army National Guard  
Mississippi Air National Guard

## Support Agencies

National Guard Bureau  
United States Department of Defense  
United States Coast Guard  
Civil Air Patrol

## Introduction

---

### Purpose

The Mississippi National Guard is capable of responding to domestic emergencies and aiding civil authorities to save lives, prevent human suffering or mitigate great property damage. Such assistance occurs after a Governor's declaration of a state of emergency and issuance of an executive order authorizing the National Guard to respond. In these instances, the National Guard or military forces supplement the efforts and resources of state and local governments and voluntary organizations.

### Scope

If an emergency or major disaster occurs which overwhelms local resources, this ESF #16 of the Mississippi Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) will be activated to provide support in accordance with the concepts of the National Response Framework (NRF). If mobilization of the National Response Framework is required, since there is no Federal ESF #16, FEMA is the primary agency in coordination with the United States Army, Department of Defense.

### Policies

- A military response begins with an incident commander or responsible local official such as an Emergency Manager requesting assistance through the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) for the Mississippi National Guard (NG) to conduct defense support to civil authority missions. (See Appendix 1).
- The Governor of the State of Mississippi must issue an executive order for the National Guard to respond.
- In accordance with the MS Code of 1972, 33-7-305, when an armed military force is ordered out in aid of civil authorities, the orders of the civil officer or officers shall not extend beyond a direction of

## **Mississippi Emergency Support Function #16 – Military Support to Civil Authorities Annex**

---

the general or specific objects to be accomplished. The tactical direction of the troops, the kind and extent of the force to be used, and the means to be employed are left solely with the military officers, subject to the orders received from the commander in chief.

- Immediate Response Authority (IRA)
  - National Guard soldiers who are in a full-time pay status or who are conducting a scheduled unit drill can respond immediately, prior to any declaration, to imminently serious conditions that are beyond the capability of the local authorities. Local commanders can respond immediately to requests for assistance to save lives, to prevent human suffering, and to mitigate great property damage. Immediate response is normally of short duration, usually for 72 hours or less.

### **Concept of Operations**

---

#### **Assumptions**

- Military forces are not first responders and take hours and days to alert and mobilize. Authority to raise forces and initiate movement should be granted to the National Guard at the earliest indication that they will be needed.
- Military forces are response assets of last resort. All available state and local resources will be employed and expended before requesting MSNG support.
- The Governor will order elements of the Mississippi National Guard to State Active Duty (SAD) when their assistance is deemed necessary to support emergency disaster operations. Title 32 funding authorization by the Secretary of Defense is not guaranteed prior to landfall of a hurricane or other disaster.
- The MSNG will not perform any mission in direct competition with private enterprise unless there are no readily available or identified private resources capable of performing the same mission.

#### **General**

- The Executive Director of the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) and the Adjutant General will evaluate the overall magnitude of each incident. If all other available resources are insufficient, the recommendation to activate the National Guard is presented to the Governor for execution.
- Once SAD is authorized. MEMA will submit mission assignments for military support directly to the MSNG director of Military Support (DOMS) for execution.
- The Adjutant General has the authority to coordinate additional support from other states by manner of Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) agreements that will be routed through MEMA to the emergency management agency of the supporting state.

## **Mississippi Emergency Support Function #16 – Military Support to Civil Authorities Annex**

---

- Shelters
  - For armories to be used as shelters, local shelter resources must be either expended, damaged beyond safe occupancy, threatened by floodwaters, or otherwise determined not suitable for use. National Guard armories are the absolute least favorable facilities for use as shelters and should only be used if necessary.
- Local authorities will have to make the request for an armory to MEMA for coordination with the American Red Cross (ARC) and the Department of Human Services (DHS).
- If DHS and ARC support the use of an armory, MEMA will forward the request to the MSNG Headquarters. Upon the approval from MSNG headquarters, the armory can then be used as a shelter.

### **Organization**

---

#### **State Emergency Operations Center**

- Command and control of the National Guard units remains with the Adjutant General and within his/her military channels.
- Local MSNG units may be required to directly support local officials with operational response consistent with current mission assignments.

#### **Administrative and Logistical Support**

- The administration of military support will come through the normal administrative channels for military operations within the state.
- Supply and services for committed military forces will be obtained and coordinated through the Mississippi National Guard Joint Operations Center.
- Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC)
  - Mutual assistance in this compact may include use of the States' National Guard forces, either in accordance with the National Guard Mutual Assistance Compact or by Public Law 104-321.

### **Actions**

---

#### **Preparedness**

##### **Mississippi National Guard/ Primary Agency:**

- Develop Operations Plans (OPLANs) to provide for ESF #16 support to the full spectrum of potential disasters facing the State of Mississippi.
- Conduct regular training and exercises for DSCA missions.

#### **Pre-Incident**

## **Mississippi Emergency Support Function #16 – Military Support to Civil Authorities Annex**

---

### **Mississippi National Guard/ Primary Agency:**

- Notify units of impending disaster for them to prepare to respond.
- Provide fixed facilities in support of the forward State Emergency Response Team (SERT) operations at the Mississippi Air National Guard Combat Readiness Training Center (CRTC) in Gulfport, MS, Camp Shelby, MS and Camp McCain, MS.
- Provide logistical staging areas and support.

### **Incident**

---

### **Mississippi National Guard/ Primary Agency:**

- Provide military police to support law enforcement and security missions.
- Support damage assessment with personnel and equipment.
- Provide aerial support for transportation and planning/Incident Awareness and Assessment (IAA) missions.
- Assist with emergency communications.
- Support traffic control points and re-entry control points.
- Provide personnel and equipment for Urban Search and Rescue (USAR).
- Staff and operate Points of Distribution (PODs).
- Conduct route clearance on key highways and roads to facilitate response and recovery operations.
- Provide Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) and HAZMAT advice and assistance if situation dictates.

### **Mississippi Emergency Management Agency:**

- Receive, confirm, evaluate, and prioritize requests for assistance from local governments.
- Allocate appropriate resources, prepare a mission assignment, and submit it to the MSNG to meet the need as determined with existing information.

### **Recovery**

### **Mississippi National Guard/ Primary Agency:**

- Provide security presence to ensure unimpeded recovery operations.

## **Mississippi Emergency Support Function #16 – Military Support to Civil Authorities Annex**

---

### **Mississippi Emergency Management Agency:**

- Receive, confirm, evaluate, and prioritize requests for assistance from local governments.
- Allocate appropriate resources, prepare a mission assignment, and submit it to the MSNG to meet the need as determined with existing information.

### **Post-Incident**

#### **Mississippi National Guard/Primary Agency:**

- Submit detailed documentation to obtain reimbursement from MEMA and FEMA.

### **ESF Review and Maintenance**

---

As a minimum, the designated coordinating agency will conduct an annual review of this annex with all support agencies. Additional reviews may be conducted if experience with an incident or regulatory change indicates a need. Recommendations for change will be submitted to MEMA through the ESF Coordinator for further approval, distribution and publication.

### **Appendices**

#### **Appendix 1 – Information Flow for Requesting Military Support**

# Mississippi Emergency Support Function #16 – Military Support to Civil Authorities Annex

## Appendix 1

### Information Flow for Requesting Military Support

