

Country Overview	
United States	
<i>Legislative framework for armed forces' use for civil protection</i>	<p>2012 National Defence Authorization Act</p> <p>The 2012 National Defense Authorization Act permits the United States Armed Forces to engage in non-military operations as requested by civilian authorities, “during emergencies with capabilities such as aviation lift, search and rescue or extraction, quartermaster (food, shelter, potable water, heated tents, etc.), civil affairs and public information as well as a significant portion of full-spectrum engineer capability” to ensure the safety of citizens and communities.</p>
<i>Key civilian authority/ies</i>	<p>Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)</p> <p>The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is the main U.S. federal disaster response agency. FEMA is charged with the responsibility to intervene and coordinate federal aid when state governments necessitate external resources and support, as mandated by the National Response Framework and the 1988 Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.</p>
<i>Armed forces branch(es) primarily involved</i>	<p>US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)</p> <p>Within the US military, there exists a separate branch known as the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), which predominately operates to provide civil assistance, particularly through the implementation and maintenance of public works project.</p> <p>United States Air Force</p> <p>The United States Air Force (USAF) has proven essential in providing immediate assistance during humanitarian crises by delivering lifesaving supplies to those in dire need through precision airdrops. In times of crisis, the USAF deploys a Critical Care Air Transport Team to provide medical attention and care to patients in critical condition.</p> <p>National Guard of the United States</p> <p>The National Guard of the United States is a branch of the military with both federal and state-level responsibilities that commonly responds to natural disasters. In general, the National Guard is well-equipped to operate during natural disasters with ample transportation, aviation, communication, and on-the-ground support. The National Guard routinely collaborates with interstate and multi-agency units by hosting exercises to simulate natural disasters or other catastrophes.</p>
<i>Cases of use / Good practices</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flood prevention and coastal disaster management <p>The USACE is most well-known for its flood prevention and coastal disaster management, leading repair and rehabilitation projects for vulnerable and damaged ecosystems or infrastructure throughout the United States.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural disaster emergency response <p>During the 2005 Hurricane Katrina, thousands of active-duty soldiers were deployed to assist with medical treatment, search and rescue, evacuation, etc. under the order of former US President George W. Bush. In addition, over fifty thousand members of the National Guard were deployed to assist in the emergency response, marking one of the first large-scale deployments of National Guard Units across state lines.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covid-19 mitigation <p>During the Covid-19 pandemic, the USACE played a critical role in helping to build medical facilities and screening zones in hard-hit communities across the country.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire-fighting operations <p>The Air National Guard and Air Force Reserves have trained personnel to combat out-of-control wildfires with a specially equipped Modular Airborne Firefighting System (MAFFS) in C-130 military aircraft.</p>

<p><i>Follow-up questions / concerns</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In what ways does the authority of the federal government and the state government impact the effectiveness of the US civil-military relationship? • Is there any concern about bringing the military into civilian activities? How is this viewed by the legislative branch and the judicial branch of the US government, and what are the reactions of the public? • If there is cross border cooperation with other countries' military and civilian authorities, to what extent, if any, could this be used as an instrument of military diplomacy? • What about cross border cooperation with other countries' military and civilian authorities for civil protection operations? • What about engagement in coordination via NATO, the UN or other mechanism, e.g. the EU?
<p><i>Indicative Bibliography</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "U.S. Air Force - Humanitarian Missions." https://www.airforce.com/mission/american-airmen/humanitarian-efforts • "U.S. Army Corps of Engineers." <i>U.S. Army Corps of Engineers</i>. https://www.usace.army.mil/ • Stuhltrager, James. 2006. "Send in the Guard: The National Guard Response to Natural Disasters." <i>Natural Resources & Environment</i> 20(4): 21–77 	