



HOME STATION PLANNING AND EXECUTION

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The [Air Force Medical Service](#) (AFMS) provides responsive medical platforms to support local, state, tribal, and federal contingency operations. The flexibility of these platforms, whether using expeditionary or home station medical capabilities, or medical contingency response teams, is the key to enabling a quick, decisive response to any disaster.

Air Force installation commanders have the authority to develop mutual aid agreements for partnership with the surrounding communities when incidents or disasters occur.³⁵ This partnership enables the indigenous capabilities of a base to survive an incident and, when available and authorized, to project mutual aid and support to the local community to minimize loss of life and human suffering, mitigate property damage, and maintain readiness for the warfighting mission. Installation commanders should ensure full participation of all appropriate base first responders and, in coordination with local, state, tribal, and federal authorities, respond to local disasters. Participation from all designated installation resources is paramount to ensure success.

Air National Guard medical force capabilities are available to support state responses to catastrophic incidents at the direction of their governors. State-to-state agreements allow governors from adjacent states to respond very quickly to offer civil support.

During larger incidents, such as major hurricanes, tornados, floods, or terrorist attacks, local resources can be quickly overwhelmed. National Guard response capability to a [chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear](#) (CBRN) incident at the state level includes the weapons of mass destruction-civil support teams, and the CBRN enhanced response force packages. The National Guard has homeland response forces, which provide lifesaving capabilities, decontamination, emergency medical, security, and command and control. Homeland response forces are a regional capability controlled by their governors, which works closely with the [Federal Emergency Management Agency](#) (FEMA) regions. Collectively, protected expeditionary medical support systems provide scalable national and deployable medical capability to bridge the gap between initial National Guard response and regular Air Force capabilities.

Air Force medical forces may be tasked to provide support in accordance with the National Response Framework, to include defense support of civil authorities. AFMS

³⁵ Annex 3-27, [Homeland Operations](#).

supports validated lead federal agency requests for assistance as identified in FEMA mission assignments through the joint task force commander. For additional information, see Annex 3-27, [Homeland Operations](#).

Air Force medical forces coordinate the development and implementation of relevant homeland operations with several oversight committees or agencies. These committees and agencies may include: Sister Services (joint); the North Atlantic Treaty Organization; [United States Northern Command](#); regional contingency response working groups such as Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, Department of Health and Human Services, the National Disaster Medical System Service Director (transferred to Air Force Medical Operations Control), and a plethora of oversight committees such as the Department of Defense Installation Protection Steering Group and the Security Enterprise Mission Assurance Steering Group.³⁶

³⁶ Department of Defense Directive 6010.22, [National Disaster Medical System](#).