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ESF #3 Concept of Operations

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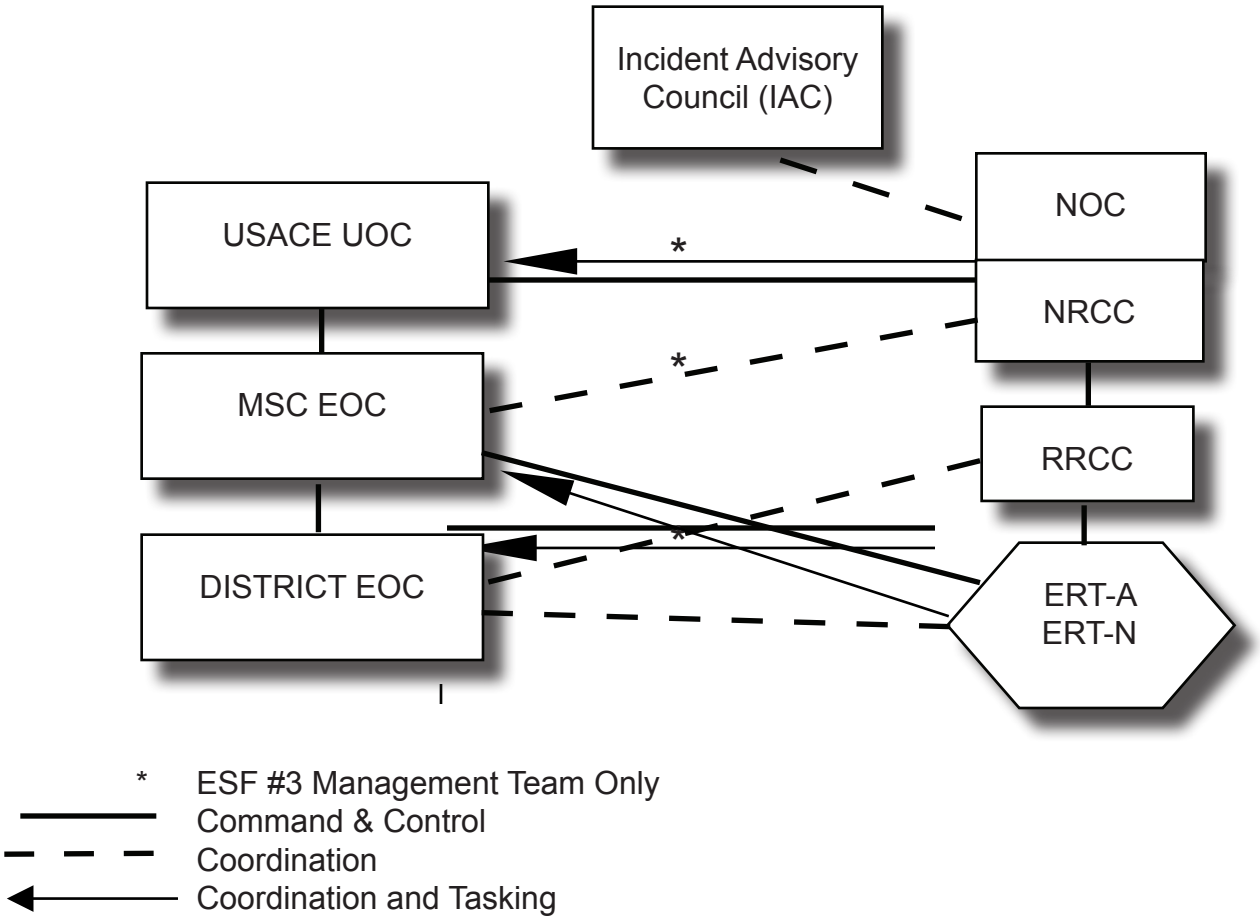
ESF #3 National Response Framework Structure



National Operations Center (NOC)

National Response Coordination Center (NRCC)

Regional Response Coordination Center (RRCC)

Emergency Response Team – Advanced (ERT-A)

Emergency Response Team - National (ERT-N)

ESF #3 Concept of Operations Summary

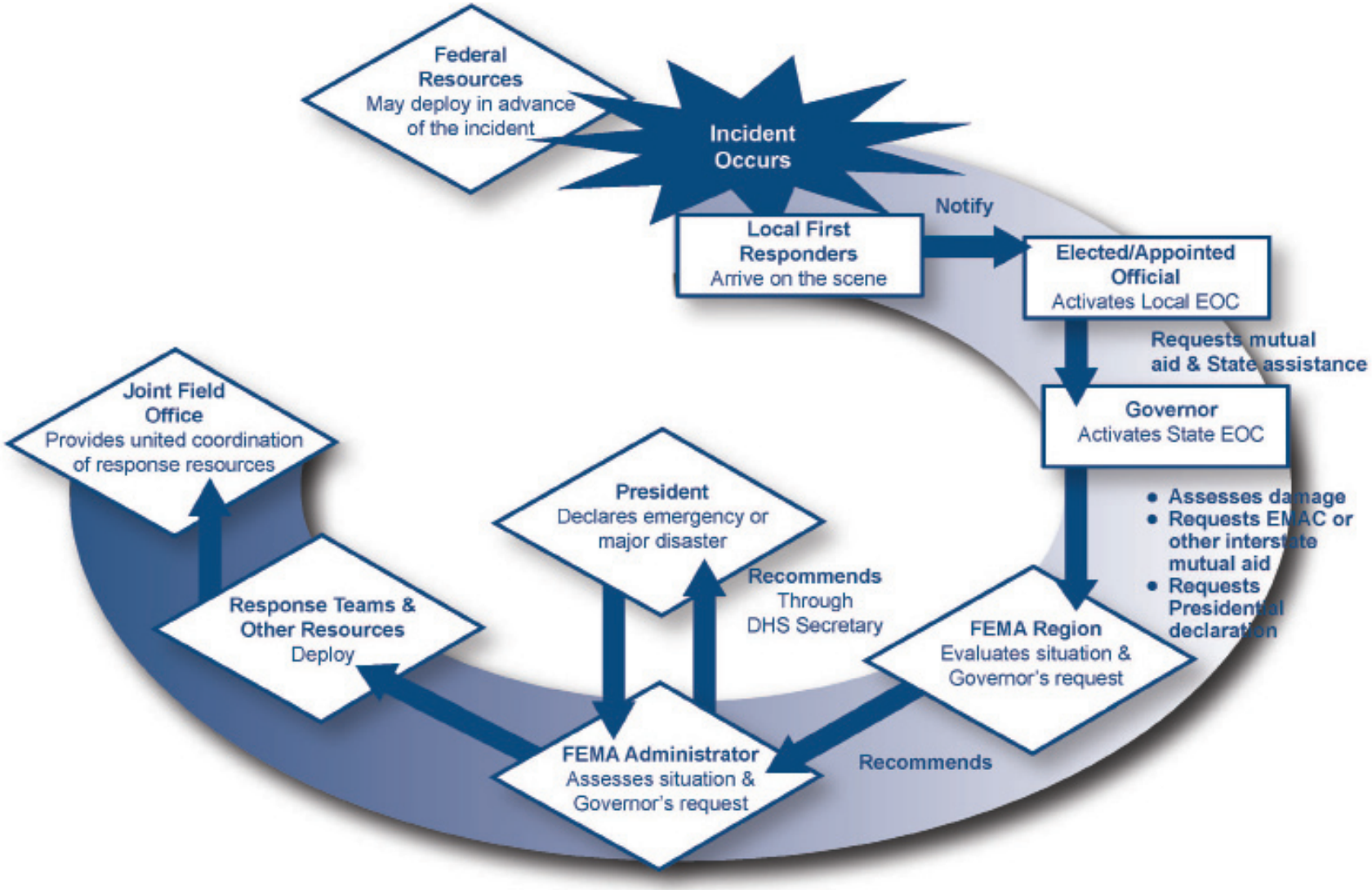
The disaster response and recovery process is complex and dynamic. The Incident Command System (ICS) assists mission execution as a standard operating procedure under the National Response Framework (NRF). Several separate activities are simultaneously initiated and executed. The following summary addresses the functions and activities during response within the Emergency Support Function #3 (ESF #3) structure. The summary incorporates established policies and principles, as well as operational experience from prior USACE emergency operation activities.

This Concept of Operations addresses operational teams, staffing, functions, reporting, and other organizational procedures associated with the response teams, mission assignments, and liaison requirements. In addition, MSC and District Emergency Operations Centers (EOC) are operating.

ESF #3 components may be present in the following response elements:

- National Operations Center (NOC)
- National Response Coordination Center (NRCC)
- Regional Response Coordination Center (RRCC)
- Emergency Response Team (ERT)
- Incident Management Assistance Team - National (IMAT-N)
- Incident Management Assistance Team - Regional (IMAT)

Overview of Initial Federal Involvement Under the Stafford Act



National Response Framework

Homeland Security Act of 2002: The Homeland Security Act, PL 107-296, 6 U.S.C. §101(14) established the Department of Homeland Security to prevent terrorist attacks within the United States and reduce the vulnerability of the United States to terrorism, natural disasters, and other emergencies.

Homeland Security Presidential Directive-5: Enhance the ability of the United States to manage domestic incidents by establishing a single, comprehensive National Incident Management System.

The Stafford Act: The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.) (88 Stat.143) (The Stafford Act), authorizes the President to provide financial and other assistance to State and Local governments, certain private nonprofit organizations, and individuals to support response, recovery, and mitigation efforts following presidentially declared major disasters and emergencies.

ESF #1: Transportation: Primary Agency: Dept. of Transportation: Provide Federal and Civil transportation support & transportation safety.

ESF #2: Telecommunication and Information Technology: Primary Agency: DHS – Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection/National Communications System: Provide telecommunication support.

ESF #3: Public Works and Engineering: Primary Agency: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Dept. of Defense: Restore essential public services and facilities.

ESF #4: Fire Fighting: Primary Agency: Dept of Agriculture, U.S. Forest Service: Detect and suppress fires, provide resource support to rural and urban firefighting operations.

ESF #5: Emergency Management: Primary Agency: DHS - FEMA: Collect, analyze, and disseminate information to facilitate overall Federal response and recovery operations.

ESF #6: Mass Care, Housing, and Human Services: Primary Agency: DHS - FEMA - Recovery Division, American Red Cross: Manage and coordinate food, shelter, and first aid for victims, provide bulk distribution of relief supplies, and assist family reunification.

National Response Framework

ESF #7: Resources Support: Primary Agency: General Services Administration: Provide equipment, materials, supplies, and personnel to Federal entities during response operations. Coordinate Federal law enforcement at the State's request.

ESF #8: Public Health and Medical Services: Primary Agency: Dept. of Health and Human Services: Provide assistance with public health and medical care needs.

ESF #9: Urban Search and Rescue: Primary Agency: DHS - FEMA: Locate and extract individuals trapped in collapsed structures and provide initial medical treatments.

ESF #10: Oil and Hazardous Materials Response: Primary Agency: Environmental Protection Agency, DHS - U.S. Coast Guard: Support Federal response to actual or potential release of oil or other hazardous materials.

ESF #11: Agriculture and Natural Resources: Primary Agency: Dept. of Agriculture - Food Nutrition Service and Animal and Plant Inspection Service, FDA: Identify needs, ensure nutritional services and agricultural and natural resource protection and restoration.

ESF #12: Energy: Primary Agency: Dept. of Energy: Restore power systems, fuel supplies.

ESF #13: Public Safety & Security: Primary Agency: Dept. of Justice: Assist with law enforcement, criminal investigation, and response/recovery operations.

ESF #14: Long-Term Community Recovery: Primary Agency: DHS - FEMA, Dept. of Commerce - Economic Development Administration, Dept. of Housing and Urban Development, Dept. of Treasury, Small Business Administration: Assess economic impact. Provide recovery assistance to State and Local government.

ESF #15: External Affairs: Primary Agency: DHS: Integrate structure, resources, and coordination mechanisms for delivering timely, accurate, and consistent information to the public.

ESF #3 Public Works and Engineering

ESF #3 - Public Works and Engineering assists the DHS/FEMA by coordinating the capabilities and resources of the Federal government to facilitate the delivery of services, technical assistance, engineering expertise, construction management, and other support to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and/or recover from domestic incidents. The ESF #3 is structured to provide public works and engineering-related support for the changing requirements of domestic incident management, including preparedness, prevention, response, recovery, and mitigation actions.

Functional Scope:

- Conduct pre- and post-incident assessments of public works and infrastructure.
- Execute emergency contract support for life-saving and life-sustaining services.
- Provide technical assistance to include engineering expertise.
- Manage construction.
- Oversee contracting services.
- Oversee real estate services.
- Provide emergency repair of damaged infrastructure and critical facilities.
- Implement and manage the DHS/FEMA Public Assistance Program and other recovery programs.
- Support all other ESFs.

Typical USACE Mission Assignments

- National Activation
- Regional Activation
- National Water
- National Ice
- Commodities
- Emergency Power
- DTOS Support
- Debris
- Temporary Housing
- Temporary Roofing
- Critical Public Facilities
- Infrastructure Assessment
- Local Government Liaisons
- Technical Assistance
- Urban Search and Rescue Support
- Recovery Field Office Operations
- Remote Sensing
- Logistics Support

Coordinating Agency Responsibilities

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is designated as the ESF #3 Coordinator in the National Response Framework and is responsible for:

- Pre-incident planning and coordination
- Maintaining contact with ESF primary and support agencies
- Conducting periodic ESF meetings and conference calls
- Coordinating efforts with the private sector
- Coordinating ESF activities related to catastrophic incident planning and critical infrastructure preparedness

Primary Agency Responsibilities

Primary Agency – Response: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is designated as the primary agency for ESF #3 response under the NRF.

Primary Agency – Recovery: FEMA is designated as the primary agency for ESF #3 recovery under the NRF. FEMA manages interagency infrastructure recovery programs under the Public Assistance program, Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 206 and the FEMA Public Assistance Guide (FEMA 322), which contains information regarding program eligibility, application processes, and project requirements.

Unified Command

Unified ESF#3 Command: When ESF #3 is activated, USACE and FEMA ESF #3 activities will be carried out through a unified command approach, as agreed upon by the two primary agencies at the time of the incident. USACE and FEMA ESF #3 representatives will jointly determine plans, objectives, strategies, and priorities and will work together to execute operations and utilize resources.

Primary Agency Responsibilities: USACE is the primary agency for the Unified ESF #3 Command during the incident response phase, when incident management priorities and objectives are focused primarily on response operations. Primary agency responsibilities for the Unified ESF #3 Command will transition to FEMA during the recovery phase, when incident management priorities and objectives are focused primarily on recovery. The USACE and FEMA ESF #3 representatives will determine the transition of lead agency responsibilities at the time of the incident.

Other ESF Support to ESF #3 Under the NRF

Agency	Functions
Dept. of Agriculture (USDA)	Provide engineering and contracting/procurement personnel and equipment to assist in emergency demolition, removal of debris, water supply, repair of roads and bridges, and temporary repair of essential public facilities. ESF #4 Fire Fighting or the USDA/Forest Service Disaster and Emergency Operations Branch is the contact for this support. Provide technical personnel to evaluate damage to water control facilities. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is the regional contact for this support.
Dept. of Commerce	Provide direct technical support and advice on procurement of external consulting services for assessing the structural and fire safety of damaged buildings and lifelines (public works and utilities). The Interagency Committee on Seismic Safety in Construction, Building and Fire Research Laboratory, National Institute of Standards and Technology, is the point of contact.
Dept. of Energy	Gather, assess, and share information on energy system damage and estimations on the impact of energy system outages within affected areas. Provide information concerning the energy restoration process, such as projected restoration schedules, percent completion of restoration, and geographic information on the restoration, and other information as appropriate. Enable potentially radioactive debris management activities by coordinating and/or providing data, resources, assessments, expertise, monitoring, technical assistance, and other appropriate support.

Other ESF Support to ESF #3 Under the NRF

Dept. of Health and Human Services (HHS)	Supply engineering and environmental health personnel to help assess the status of local potable water, wastewater, and solid-waste facilities. Provide guidance related to health problems associated with hazardous materials. Coordinate and/or provide data, resources, assessments, expertise, monitoring, technical assistance, and other appropriate support for the management of contaminated debris.
Dept. of Homeland Security (DHS)	**Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Directorate** Protective Security Division (PSD): Provide infrastructure risk and vulnerability assessments in response to actionable intelligence and other information to support ESF #3 protection and mitigation missions. Infrastructure Coordination Division (ICD): Work with the Infrastructure Liaison on recovery and restoration of this ESF's critical infrastructure sector, including the allocation and prioritization of resources. **U.S. Coast Guard** Coordinate the marking and removal of obstacles declared to be hazards to navigation. Assist in debris and contaminated debris management that impacts navigable waters by coordinating and/or providing resources, assessments, expertise, monitoring, technical assistance, and other appropriate support.

Other ESF Support to ESF #3 Under the NRF

Dept. of the Interior	Provide engineering support in evaluating damage to water control systems, such as dams, levees, and water delivery facilities. Provide personnel to assist in damage assessment, structural inspections, debris clearance monitoring, and restoration of facilities in general. Provide technical assistance in contract management, contracting, procurement, construction inspection, and environmental and archeological assessments. Provide any required tribal nation liaisons, as described in the Tribal Relations Support Annex.
Dept. of Labor (DOL)	**Occupational Safety and Health Administration (DOL/OSHA)** Provide worker safety advice, assistance, and policy support for debris removal, building demolition, and other ESF #3 activities.
Dept. of Transportation	Provide technical expertise and assistance for repair and the restoration of transportation infrastructure (e.g., highways, bridges, tunnels, transit systems, port facilities, and railways). Advise and assist transportation of contaminated materials. Provide engineering personnel and support to assist in damage assessment, structural inspections, debris clearing, and restoration of U.S. transportation infrastructure. Administer special funding for repair or reconstruction of major highway facilities and grant programs for transit systems and railroads that could be used for repair and rehabilitation of damaged infrastructures.

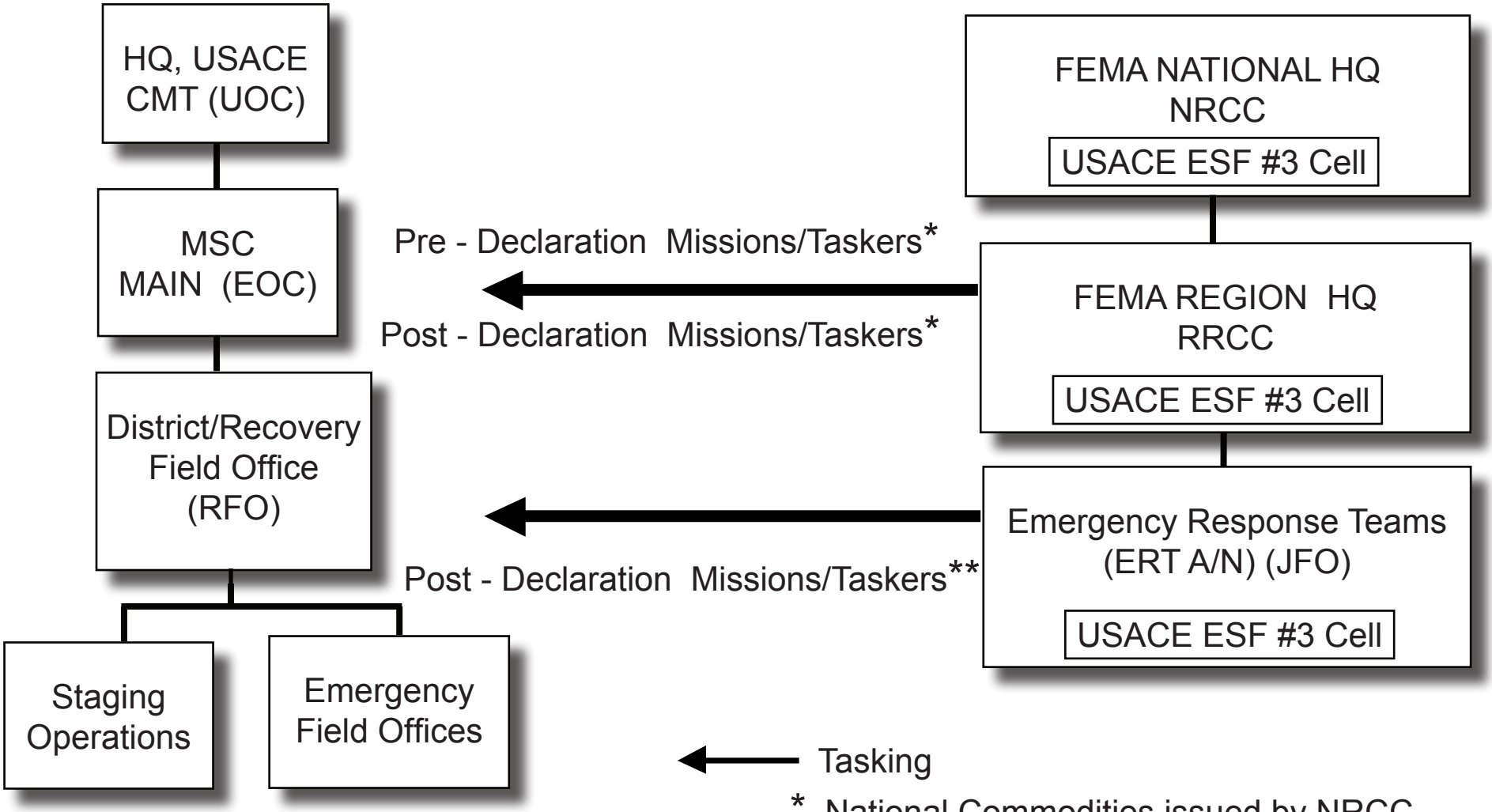
Other ESF Support to ESF #3 Under the NRF

Dept. of Veteran Affairs	Provide engineering personnel and support, including design estimating and construction supervision, for repair, reconstruction, and restoration of eligible facilities.
Environmental Protection Agency	Conduct infrastructure protection activities for drinking water and water treatment agencies in accordance with responsibilities as the designated Sector-Specific Agency as described in Homeland Security Presidential Directive-7. In conjunction with HHS, assist in determining potable local water and materials that may affect drinking water supplies. Assist in identifying water and wastewater needs. Supply sanitary engineers to assess wastewater and solid-waste facilities. Provide bio-surveillance, warning, and detection capabilities. Assist in locating disposal sites for debris clearance. Identify locations and provide safety guidance for areas affected by hazardous materials. Ensure the protection and cleanup of these areas. Assist contaminated debris management activities by coordinating and/or providing data, resources, assessments, expertise, monitoring, technical assistance, and other appropriate support. Assist investigation and intelligence analysis for hazardous materials incidents involving contaminated wastewater or drinking water systems.

Other ESF Support to ESF #3 Under the NRF

General Services Administration	Provide personnel and contractors to assist in damage assessment, structural inspections, debris clearance monitoring, and the restoration of facilities in general. Provide technical assistance in contracting, procurement, contract management, construction inspection, and environmental and archeological assessments.
Nuclear Regulatory Commission	Assist potentially radioactive debris management by coordinating and/or providing data, resources, assessments, expertise, monitoring, technical assistance, and other appropriate support.
Tennessee Valley Authority	Provide personnel to assist in damage assessment, structural inspections, debris clearance monitoring, and restoration of facilities in general.
American Red Cross	Work with DOD/USACE, DHS/EPR/FEMA, other Federal, State, Local, and Tribal government entities, as well as other NGOs to ensure integration of ice and water requirements and distribution processes into mass care operations.

Mission Assignment and Tasking



* National Commodities issued by NRCC

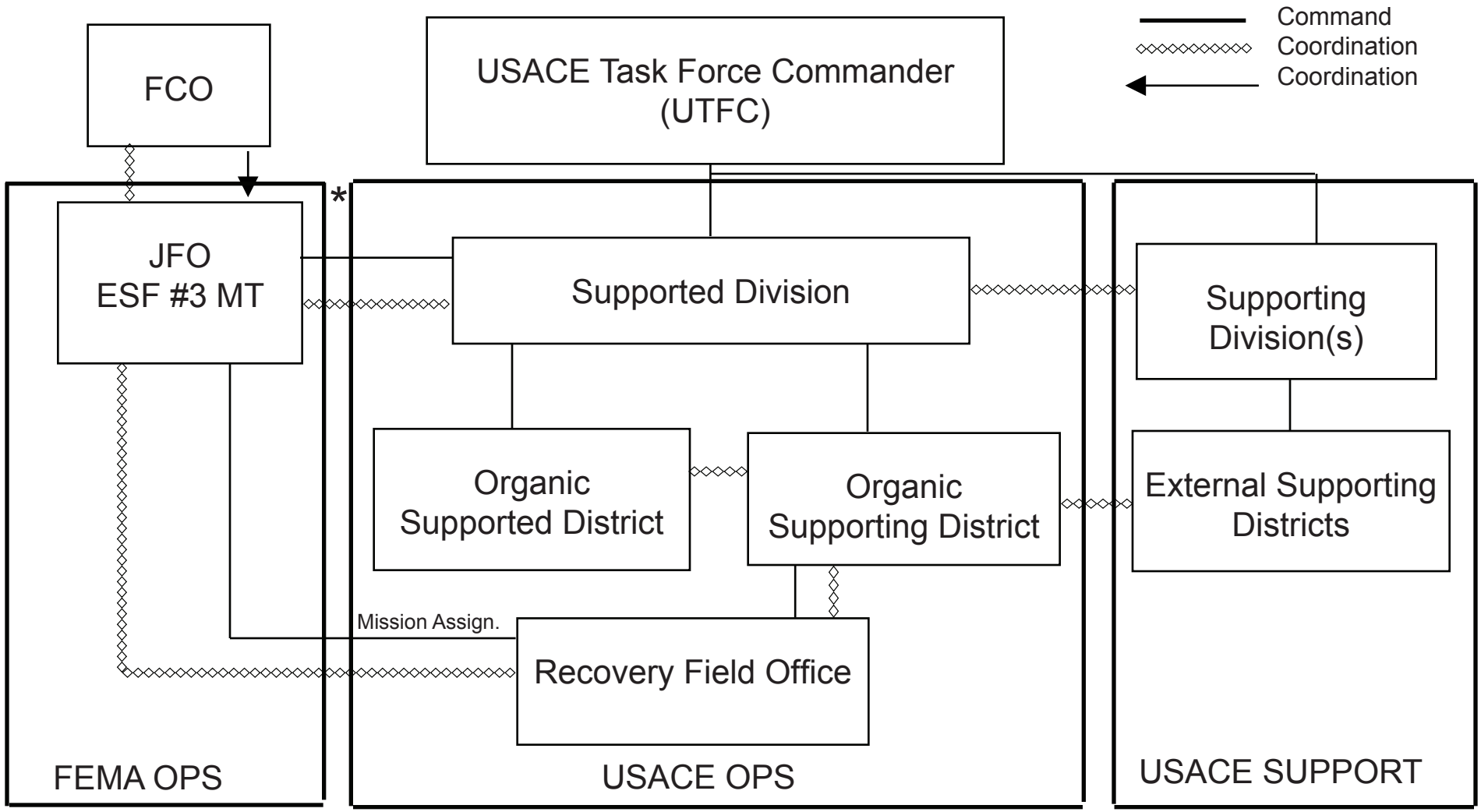
** Issued from JFO when RRCC stands down

Foundation for USACE Responsibilities

- **USACE Task Force Commander (UTFC)**
  - Issue operations orders
  - Designate Supported and Supporting MSC Commands
  - Provide USACE resources and attach them to the Supported Division Commander, upon request
- **ESF #3 Team Leader**
  - Provide supervision to all the USACE elements directly supporting the FCO and internal FEMA operations
  - Serve as the USACE representative in the negotiation, coordination, and acceptance of missions and taskings
  - Provide Senior Program Manager oversight of ESF #3 assigned missions
  - Forward FCO's taskings to the USACE response unit (usually the Recovery Field Office (RFO)) for mission execution
- **Supported Division Commander**
  - Responsible to the USACE Commander for emergency preparedness and response
  - Respond quickly with "P" for plenty
  - For major disasters, deploy to the disaster site and provide initial disaster assessment
  - Designate the USACE responding organization (usually an RFO) commander
  - Provide MSC resources to RFO commander to support mission(s)
  - Request additional resources through HQUSACE UOC
  - Act as point of contact (POC) for all HQ mission execution and mission status reporting
  - Attached unit, the ESF #3 Team Leader (Management Team), and other USACE assets assigned to the Joint Field Office*
- **USACE Responding Organization Commander**
  - Support the Recovery Field Office
  - Designated by the Supported Division Commander, accountable to the Supported Division Commander
  - Attached USACE assets deploy into the region for event response (Does not include personnel DS to FCO*)
- **Recovery Field Office (RFO)**
  - Provide mission execution, planning, contract administration, design, tecnical assistance, and real estate acquisition/disposal
  - Function is similar to a District Office
- **Emergency Field Office**
  - Function is similar to a Resident Engineer Office
  - Established by a district EOC for small to medium recovery missions (e.g., debris, temporary housing and roofing)
  - Established by the RFO to support large, long duration recovery missions
- **USACE Responding Organization (usually a Supported District) Commander**
  - Provide cadre, administration, and logistics support for the RFO

* Supported Division Commander may further attach elements to the USACE response unit (usually an RFO) Commander.

Command and Control of USACE Disaster Recovery Operations



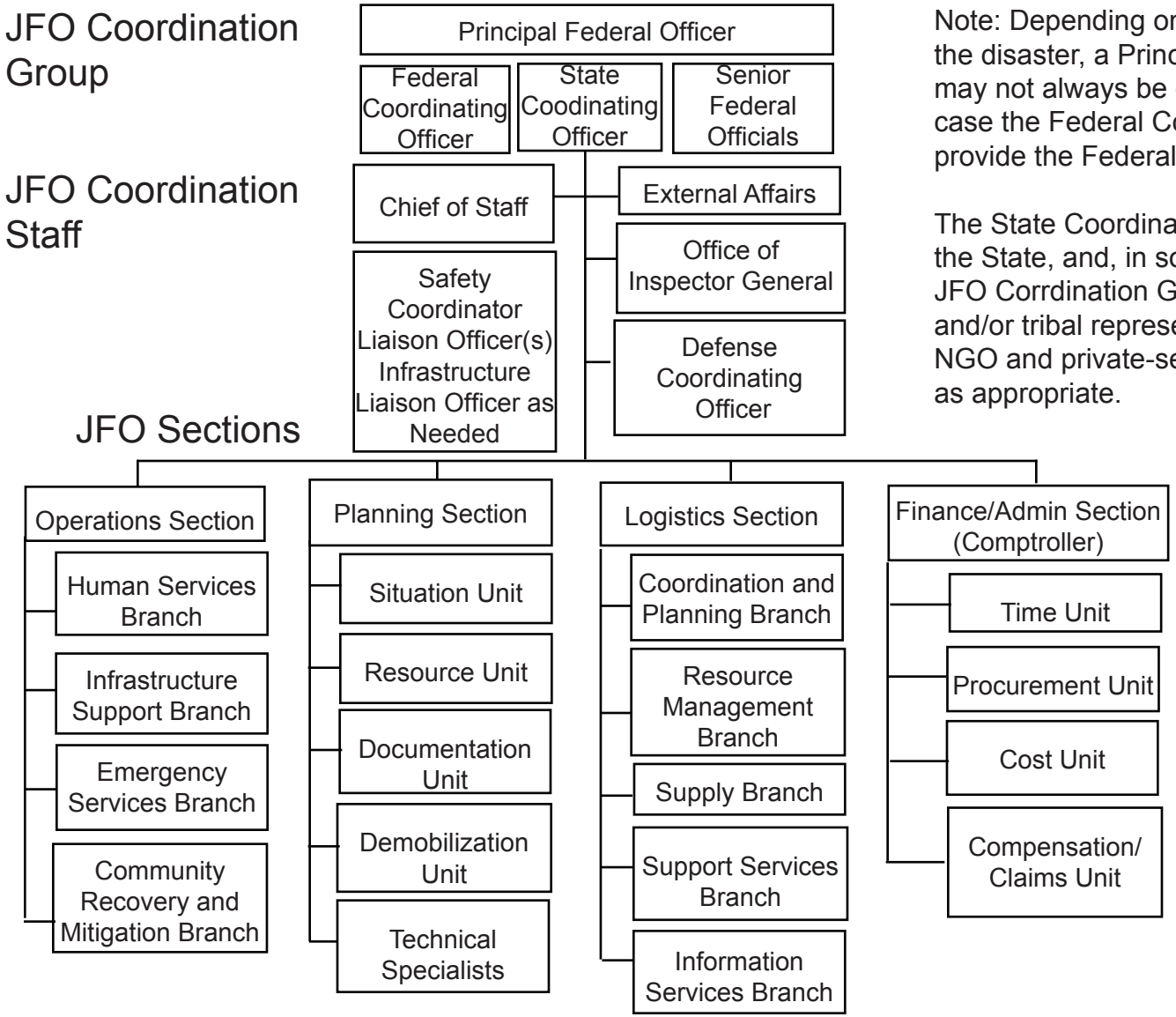
** Supported Division Commander may further attach ESF #3 MT to Recovery Field Office Commander.*

Sourcing of ESF #3 Team Leaders & Assistant Team Leaders

- USACE Task Force Commander (UTFC) provides:
  - Representative to the NRCC
  - Staffing for NRCC
  - Staffing for IMAT – National (previously ERT-N)

- Division Commander (MSC) (in consultation with the UTFC) provides:
  - Staffing for RRCC
  - Staffing for IMAT – Regional (previously ERT-A)

Sample JFO for Natural Disasters



Note: Depending on the magnitude of the disaster, a Principal Federal Official may not always be designated, in which case the Federal Coordinating Officer will provide the Federal lead.

The State Coordinating Officer represents the State, and, in some instances, the JFO Corrdination Group may include local and/or tribal representatives, as well as NGO and private-sector representatives, as appropriate.

National Response Coordination Center (NRCC)

The NRCC begins interagency operations by coordinating the initial activation, deployment of special teams, initiation and monitoring of mission assignments (Stafford Act only), and/or other interagency requirements (non-Stafford Act), and RRCC(s) activities as required and permitted by operational security considerations. The NRCC informs primary agencies of this activation and provides a timeline to report to the NRCC. Primary agencies may notify and activate support agencies if required.

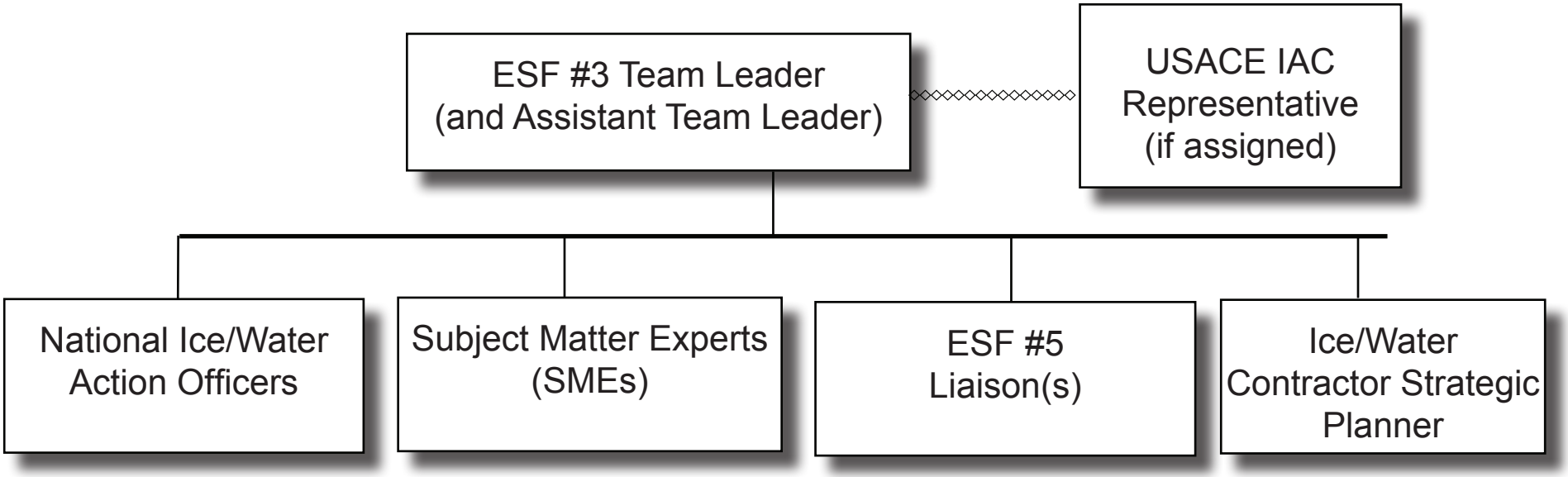
Primary agencies determine the impact of an incident on their own capabilities and identify, mobilize, and deploy resources under the mission assignment process or interagency agreements to support response activities in the affected jurisdiction(s). Formal alert and notification protocols and procedures for activation of ESFs are included as part of the NRCC standard operating procedures, published separately.

Incident Advisory Council (IAC)

The IAC is a Federal headquarters-level multi-agency coordination entity that facilitates strategic Federal domestic incident management. The IAC is comprised of senior representatives from NGOs, DHS components, and other Federal departments and agencies, as required. The membership is flexible and can be tailored to provide the subject matter expertise required for a current incident or specific threat. When activated, the IAC will:

- Serve as a focal point for Federal strategic incident management planning and coordination.
- Maintain situational awareness of threat assessments and ongoing incident-related operations and activities.
- Provide decision-making support for threat or incident-related prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery efforts.
- Provide strategic coordination and recommendations for using Federal resources in cooperation with existing agency and interagency resource management and private-sector entities.
- Assess national impact of the incident(s) and its actual or proposed Federal response.
- Anticipate evolving Federal resource and operational requirements according to the situation.
- Maintain ongoing coordination with the PFO and the JFO Coordination Group.
- Coordinate with the FBI SIOC on terrorism-related issues.
- Facilitate operational coordination within the agency and with other public and private entities required for implementing direction from the President or other appropriate White House entities.
- Develop strategies for implementing existing policies and provide incident information to the DHS and White House to facilitate policy making. The White House originates any new policies pertaining to a major incident and resolves interagency policy disputes.
- Synthesize information, frame issues, and make recommendations to the Secretary of Homeland Security on:
    - Responses to credible threats
    - Changes in the national HSAS alert level policy
    - Operational courses of action
    - Priorities for the use or allocation of Federal resources

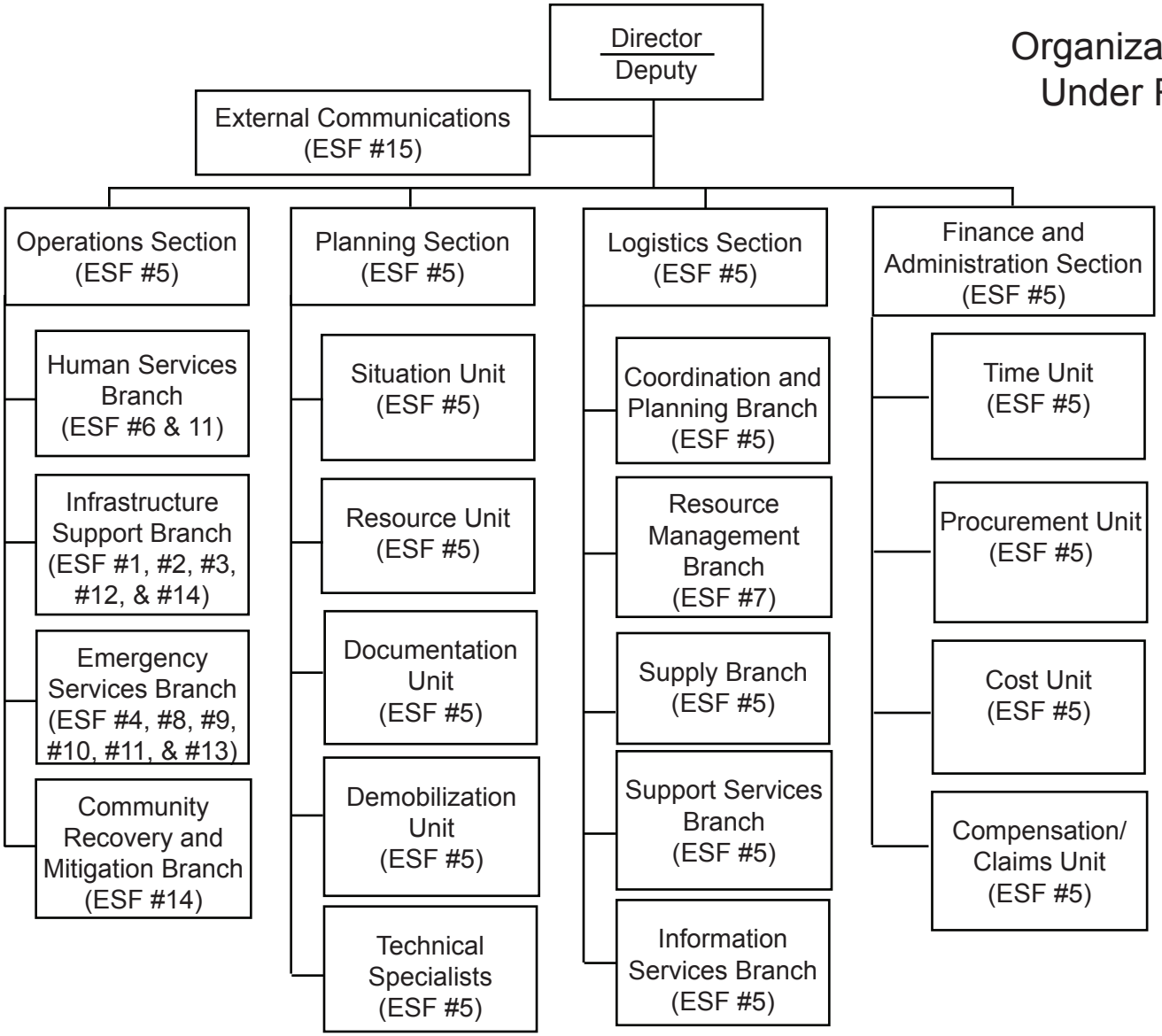
USACE Support to the NRCC



USACE ESF #3 Responsibilities at the NRCC

- Establish and maintain coordination with ESF #3 at the RRCC/JFO and UOC.
- Act as ESF #3 POC for NRCC Director, other ESFs, Logistics, Joint Director of Military Support (JDOMS), and others.
- Assist in resolving issues that impede USACE response efforts.
- Represent USACE in the overall management of ESF #3 activities.
- Manage Single Source Ordering of National Commodities.
- Support activities of the ESF #5 (FEMA), including remote sensing/geographic information system (RS/GIS) modeling efforts and reporting.
- Support Logistics and transportation activities.
- Advise FEMA and other ESFs on USACE authorities and capabilities.
- Provide active interface with other ESFs and the DoD Liaison.
- Provide the USACE input regarding resource allocation.
- Pro-actively participate in the NRCC Director's daily coordination meetings and the action planning process.
- Provide FEMA leadership with status of USACE missions.
- Report daily status to HQUSACE and IAC representative (if assigned).
- Provide input to White House updates and other FEMA reports.

RRCC Organization



Organization Chart
Under Revision

Regional Response Coordination Center

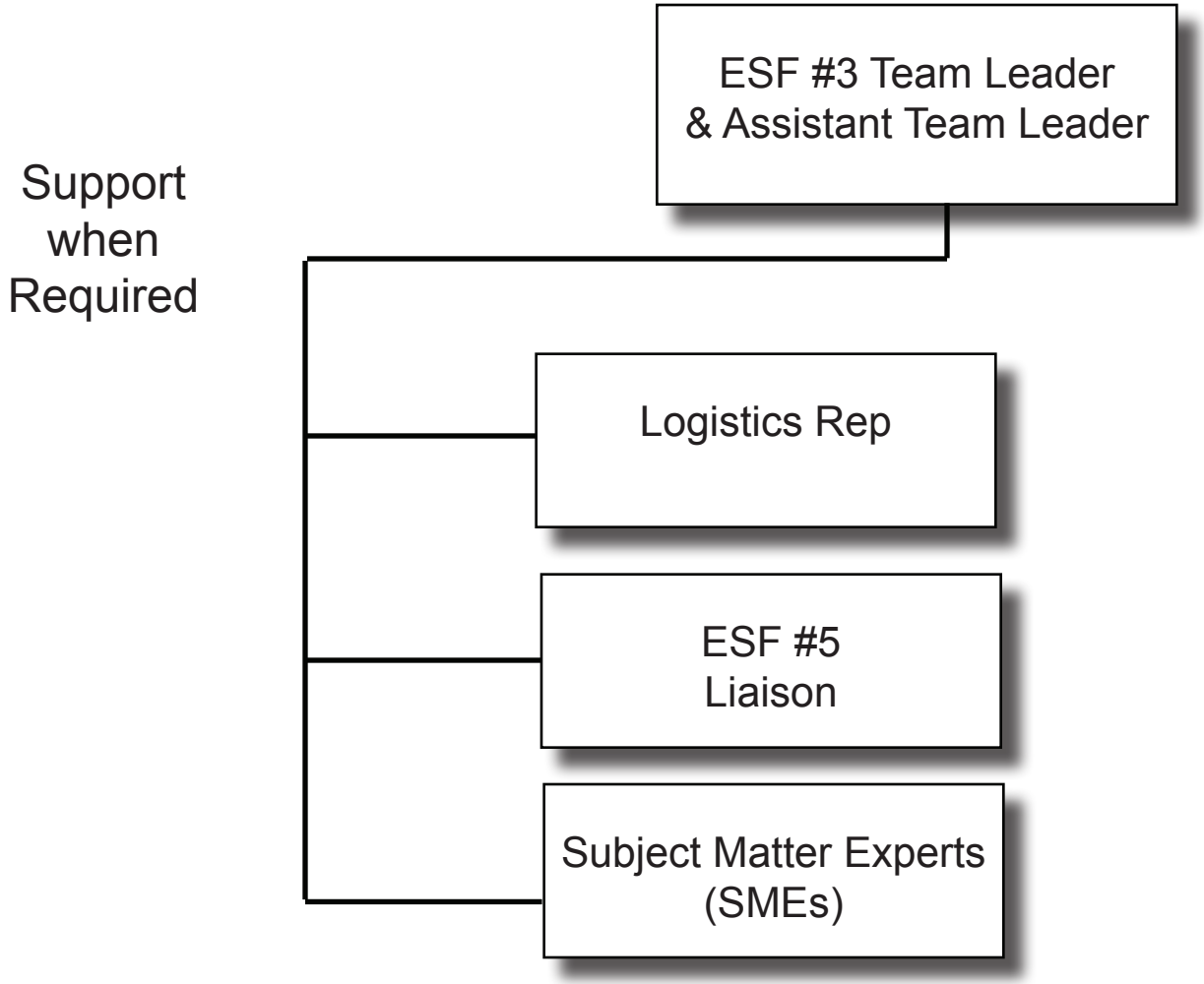
The Regional Response Coordination Center (RRCC) staff Response Support Team (RST), coordinates Federal response efforts, until an IMAT or ERT is established in the field and the FCO assumes coordination responsibilities. Generally operating from the FEMA Regional Office, the RRCC establishes communications with the affected state emergency management agency and the NRCC, coordinates deployment of the Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT), or Emergency Response Team - Advance (ERT-A) to field locations, assesses damage, develops situation reports (under ESF #5 - Emergency Management), and issues initial mission assignments.

The RRCC is activated by the FEMA Regional Director based on the level of response required. It is led by an RRCC Director and consists of FEMA staff, ESF representatives, and a Regional Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officer (REPLO), who helps coordinate requests for military support. The RRCC will be deactivated once the JFO becomes operational, or at the discretion of the FEMA Regional Director.

Until the JFO is fully operational, the RRCC will perform the following functions:

- Establish the foundation for response and recovery efforts.
- Coordinate ERT-A activities for deployment to the field and/or State EOC.
- Collect field assessment data provided from IMAT or ERT-A, and collect and distribute RNA data.
- Issue pre-disaster and other initial mission assignments to the respective ESFs.
- Accept formal Mission Assignments (MAs) via its USACE representative.
- Establish communications with the affected state through the IMAT or ERT-A and initiate planning and coordination for response.
- Serve as a temporary coordination office for Federal activity.
- Collect information and provide situation status updates and assessment reports to the NRCC, IMAT or ERT-A, and MSC EOC.
- Coordinate the gathering and dissemination of damage assessment information with ESF #5 - Emergency Management through the FEMA RRCC Situation Report (SITREP).

USACE Support to the RRCC



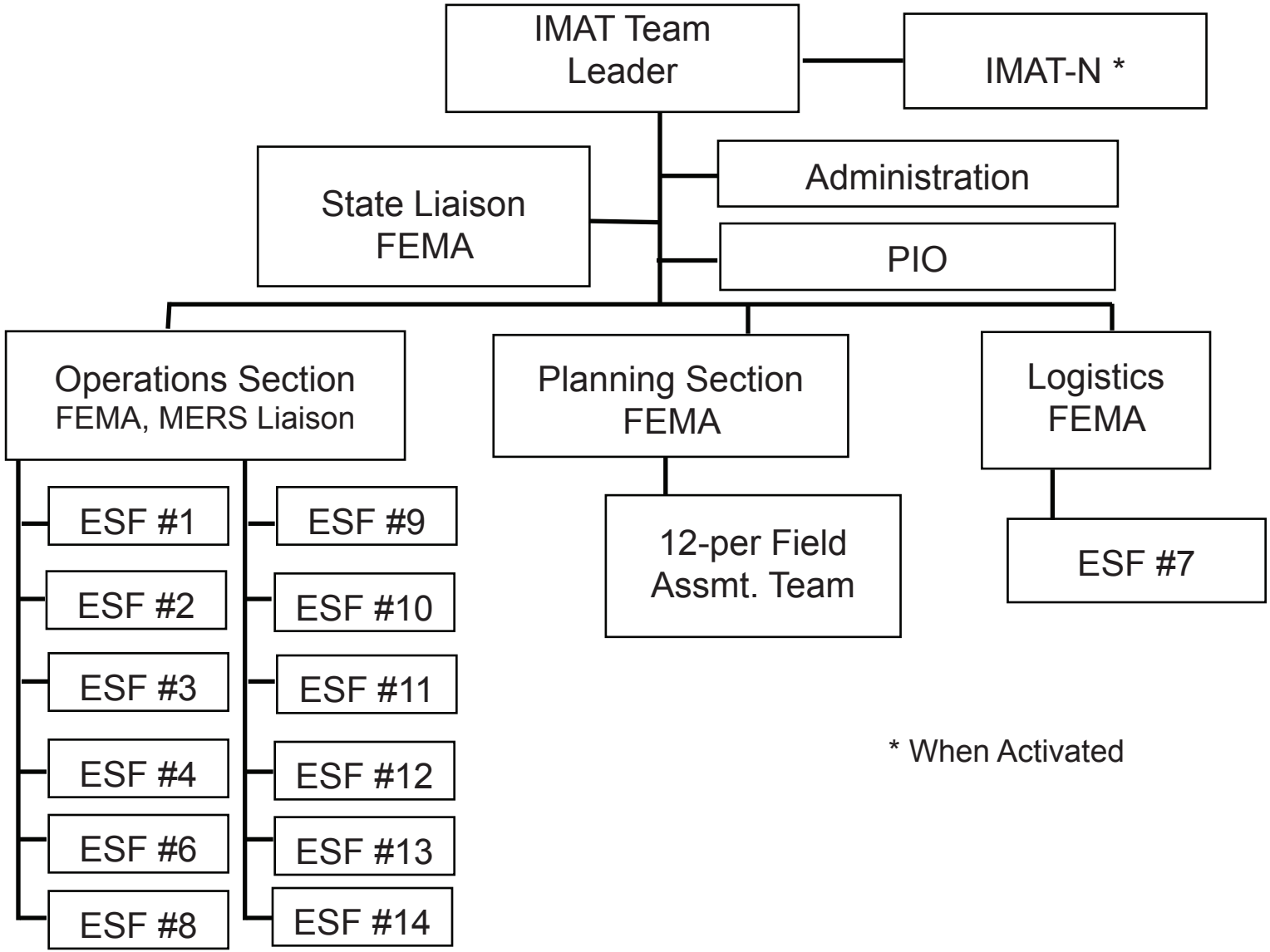
USACE Support to the RRCC

ESF #3 RRCC Staffing: The MSC, in coordination with HQUSACE, will be responsible for providing credentialed ESF #3 representatives to the RRCC for 24-hour operations. MSC Commanders will provide support personnel to round out the ESF #3 cell at the RRCC. Upon deactivation of the RRCC, the credentialed ESF #3 personnel may be required to redeploy to the JFO or elsewhere, as determined by the UOC.

The RRCC ESF #3's responsibilities are to:

- Provide ESF #3 input to the pre-event contingency planning process.
- Represent the USACE in overall management of ESF #3 activities.
- Act as the ESF #3 POC for the RRCC Director, DCO, and other ESF team leaders.
- Coordinate the formulation, acceptance, and funding of initial mission assignments from FEMA and/or other ESFs.
- Provide the RRCC Director status of USACE activities and input for FEMA RRCC SITREP.
- Coordinate and participate in strategic planning on projected ESF #3 missions.
- Support activities of the ESF #5, including RS/GIS modeling efforts and reporting.
- Participate proactively in the RRCC Director's daily coordination meetings and action-planning process.
- Forward MAs to the impacted MSC for execution and information copies to NRCC and UOC.
- Coordinate with ESF #1 (DOT) on the transportation concept of operations for support to USACE mission execution.
- Coordinate with ESF #12 (DOE) on the concept of operations for restoration of the power grids in concert with the USACE emergency power mission.
- Report daily USACE status to the MSC EOC and NRCC.
- Coordinate with NRCC, IMAT, or ERT-A deployed to the State EOC, RNA Team(s), and with MSC and District EOC's, as necessary.
- Advise FEMA and other ESFs on USACE authorities and capabilities.

IMAT or ERT-A Structure



* When Activated

USACE Support to the IMAT or ERT-A

Both IMAT-N and ERT-N, as well as IMAT-R and ERT-A, are used in this document, since this is a transition year, and the terms are basically interchangeable at the National and Regional levels. The IMAT, or ERT-A, is the initial Federal group responding to an incident in the field. Headed by a team leader from FEMA, it is composed of FEMA program and support staff, as well as representatives from selected ESF primary agencies. A part of the ERT-A deploys to the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) or other locations to work directly with the State to obtain information on the event's impact and to identify specific State requests for Federal response called back to the RRCC for processing. Other ERT-A elements (including MERS personnel and equipment) deploy directly to or near the affected area to set up operations, locate and establish field facilities, and establish field communications. The ERT-A advises as to the need to deploy a full or partial ERT and identifies or validates the suitability of candidate sites for the location of mobilization center(s) and the JFO. The ERT-A, provides the RNA assessment data to the RRCC.

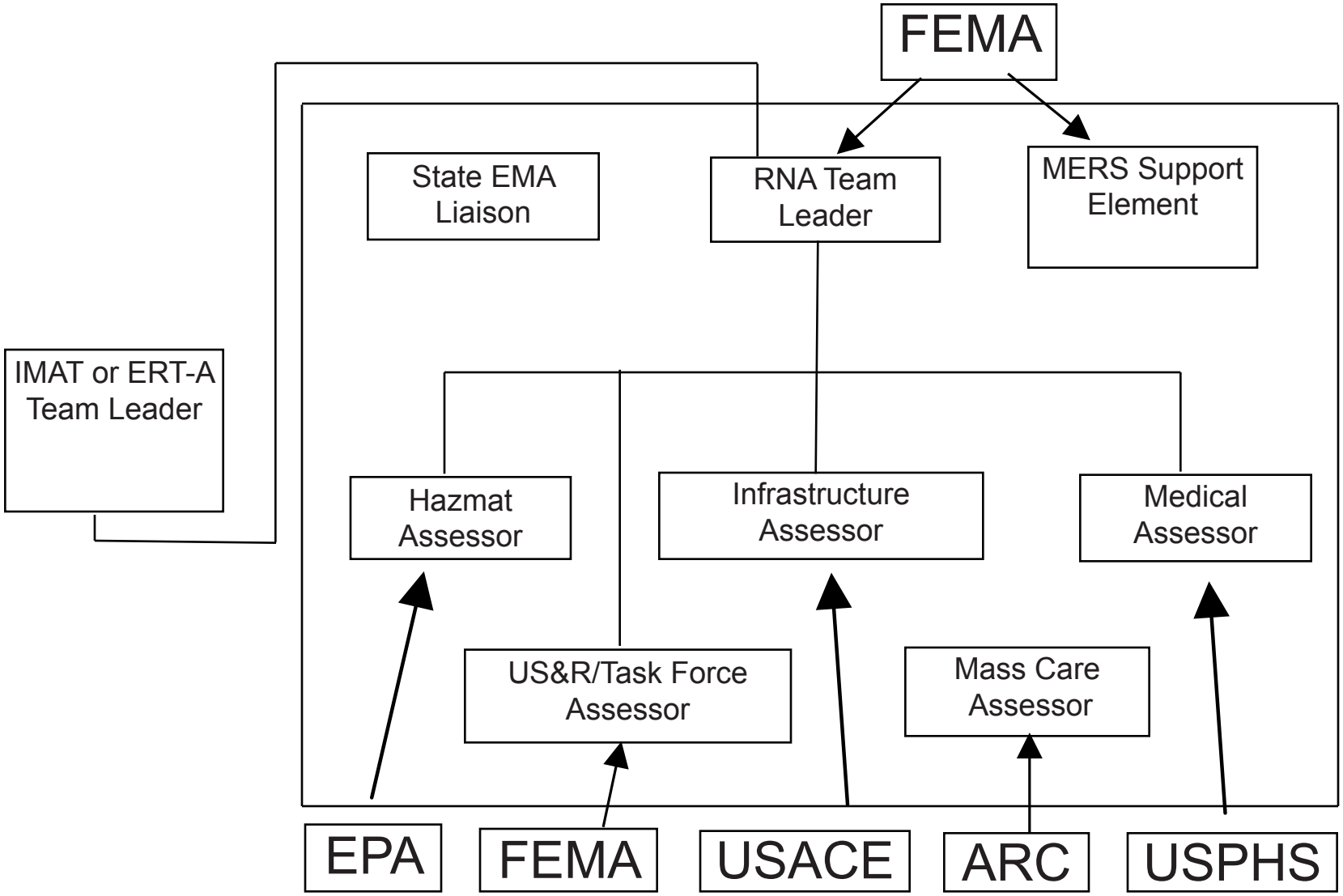
Activation: The IMAT, or ERT-A, may be activated at the same time as the RRCC or at the discretion of the FEMA Regional Director. USACE planning to support the IMAT or ERT-A should provide for activation as early as three days before an actual event with warning (e.g., hurricanes, floods). An event without warning (e.g., earthquake) will require the USACE to have designated personnel postured for activation at all times for each MSC.

ESF #3 IMAT or ERT-A Staffing: HQUSACE will be responsible for providing representatives for the IMAT, or ERT-A. IMAT or ERT-A, representatives should include, but not be limited to, a Team Leader, Assistant Team Leader, Action Officers (commodity and emergency power), 249th Action Officer, and an administrative assistant. In addition, when activated, the USACE member of IMAT-N or ERT-N works closely with IMAT or ERT-A. Prime Power will normally have two personnel on the IMAT or ERT-A. As USACE representatives complete their missions on the IMAT or ERT-A, they are either released or are redeployed to the JFO as part of the ESF #3 Management Team.

ESF #3 IMAT or ERT-A Staff Responsibilities:

- Provide information to MSC EOC for both assessment of scope and magnitude of the disaster.
- Inform State officials regarding types of assistance the USACE can provide under ESF #3 and USACE authority.
- Identify JFO space requirements to FEMA for the ESF #3 Management Team.
- Identify, where practical, the inclusion of space for the RFO in the JFO.
- Provide requirements for lodging of the ESF #3 Management Team to FEMA.

Rapid Needs Assessment



Rapid Needs Assessment (RNA)

The RNA is a pre-designated team of experts from Federal, State, and Local emergency management agencies deployed to the disaster to augment State and Local assessment capabilities. The RNA quickly collects and reports data that relate to emergency health and safety requirements and mitigation of property damage to determine the resources needed to support emergency response activities. As a component of the IMAT, or ERT-A, the RNA assesses both the overall impact of a disaster event and determines Federal response requirements. The RNA identifies disaster-induced population needs that can be addressed only through Federal intervention and resource support.

Activation: FEMA activates the USACE RNA component through the RRCC or directly to the MSC EOC. Before a potentially large-scale or catastrophic incident, such as a hurricane, FEMA may deploy a RNA to a forward location in anticipation of a State request for assistance. Otherwise, the RNA will be activated as soon as possible after a catastrophic or large-scale event, then be prepared to deploy within six hours and begin assessments within 12 hours.

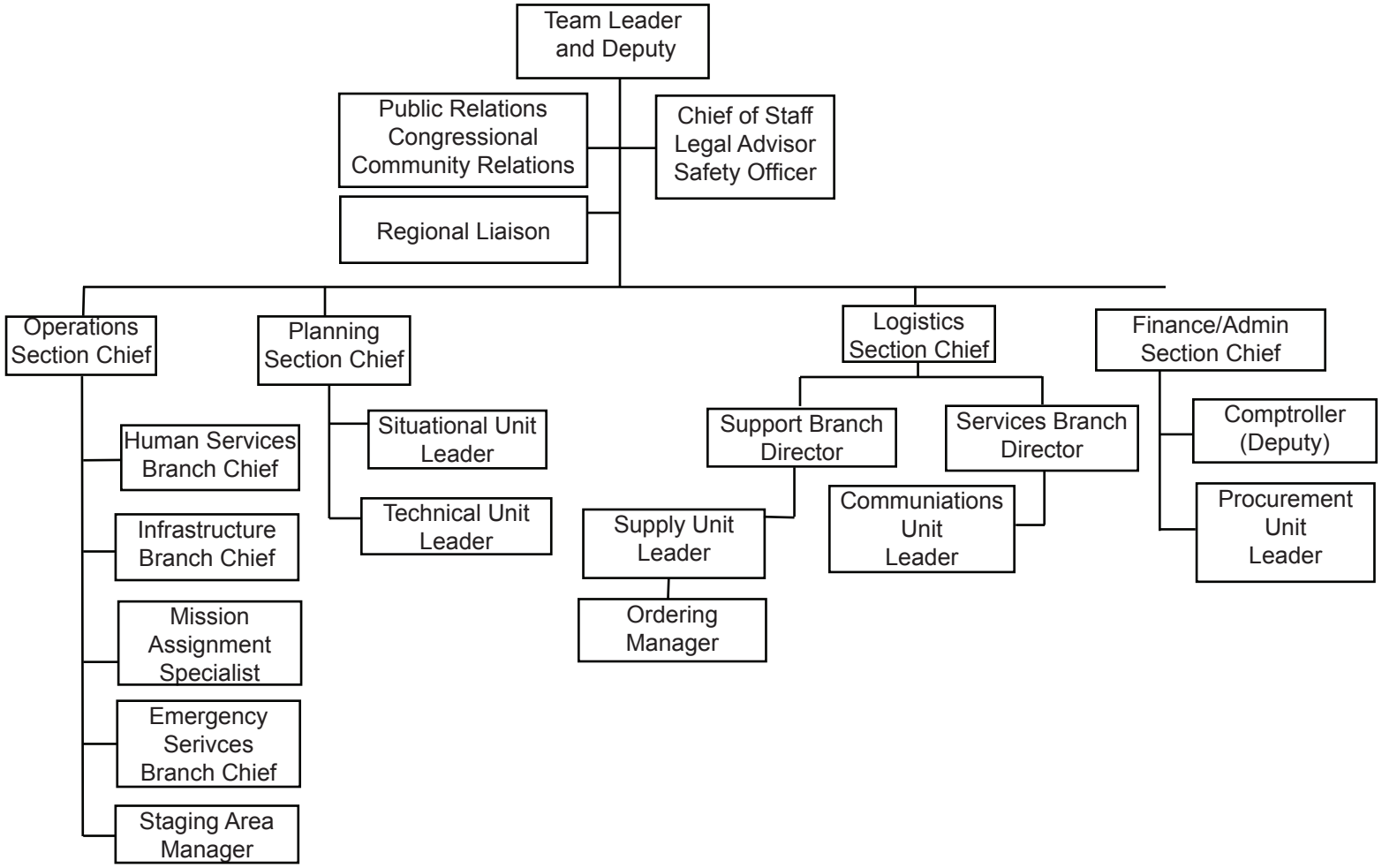
Deactivation: The RNA leader will deactivate the RNA. USACE team members may be deactivated and return to home station or be reassigned to the RFO.

ESF #3 RNA Staffing: MSC is responsible for providing a qualified infrastructure specialist for these teams. Each member should have prior disaster experience and be capable of assessing damages and needs.

ESF #3 RNA Staff Responsibilities: The Infrastructure Specialist will maintain a state of readiness for deployment. Once deployed, the RNA will be self-sufficient in their operations (e.g., food, water, clothing) for 72 hours. FEMA will provide additional logistical support. The RNA collects immediate disaster-related data that impacts lifesaving activities. Data collection will be conducted in the field and may include aerial over-flights. Additional assessment data from various other sources will also need to be sent to the IMAT or ERT-A and forwarded to the State EOC and RRCC. The RNA USACE member will be issued a personal kit at the disaster area, which includes safety items. The RNA member will be responsible only for clothing and personal hygiene/toiletry items.

Reporting: USACE RNA members will provide completed checklists to the RNA Leader. Copies of the information will be provided to the RRCC/IMAT or ERT-A, and MSC EOC as appropriate.

IMAT or ERT-N Organization Chart



Incident Management Assistance Team - National (IMAT-N) or Emergency Response Team - National (ERT-N)

In a catastrophic disaster or high-visibility incident demanding the full capabilities of FEMA, an IMAT-N or ERT-N may deploy to the affected area. The Director of FEMA determines the need for an IMAT or ERT-N deployment, coordinating the plans with the affected region and other Federal agencies. The IMAT-N or ERT-N comprises staff from FEMA Headquarters and regional offices and may include other Federal agencies, depending on the circumstances. One IMAT-N or ERT-N team is on the roster.

USACE Support to the IMAT-N or ERT-N

There are no standing ESFs on the IMAT or ERT-N. However, HQUSACE is responsible for maintaining a list of qualified individuals and providing a USACE representative to the IMAT-N or ERT-N, as required. The ESF #3 Team Leader on the IMAT-N or ERT-N is responsible for strategic and political activities and works closely with the IMAT-R or ERT-A/ESF #3 Management Team on mission execution once the JFO is established.

“Full” Emergency Response Team (ERT)

The ERT is the principal interagency group that supports the FCO in coordinating the overall Federal disaster operation. The full ERT is comprised of all activated ESFs at the JFO. The ERT ensures that federal resources are made available to meet state requirements identified by the State Coordinating Officer (SCO). The size and composition of the ERT can range from FEMA regional office staff who are primarily conducting recovery operations, to an interagency team having representation from all ESF primary and support agencies undertaking full response and recovery activities.

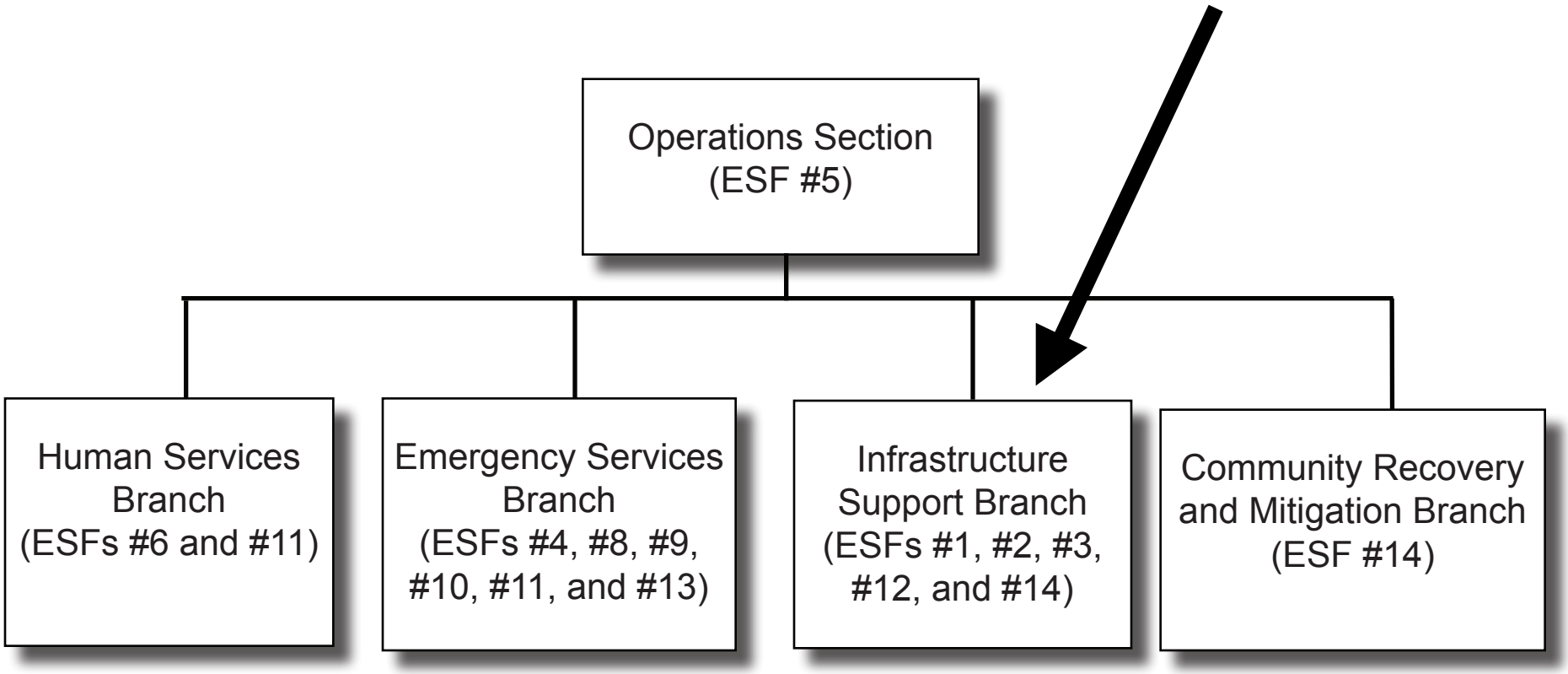
The ESF #3 Management Team will be fully operational once the JFO is established. This ESF #3 Management Team is an integral part of the ERT and provides the linkage between the USACE and FEMA at the JFO. In addition, the team serves as the point of contact for other ESFs regarding the execution of missions within the scope of ESF #3.

For USACE, the ESF #3 Management Team accomplishes mission coordination with FEMA, and other Federal, State, and Local agencies. The Recovery Field Office accomplishes recovery mission execution. This includes design, contracting, logistics, real estate, contract administration, resource management, and other functional supports.

In all cases, the Team Leader for the ESF #3 Management Team is the USACE authorized representative and staff element. Missions are completed through a series of taskings to the RFO/supported district.

Operations Section of the ERT

ESF #3 Management Team



ERT Operations Section

The Operations Section of the ERT coordinates the delivery of Federal assistance and manages the activities of various emergency teams. Immediate support staff functions include coordination, issuing mission and tasking assignments, and tracking mission status.

The section is composed of four branches: Human Services, Emergency Services, Infrastructure Support, and Community Recovery and Mitigation. As shown in the preceding figure, the 13 ESFs are organized functionally under these branches to provide a coordinated approach and ensure a seamless delivery of assistance to disaster survivors and the affected state.

The ESF #3 Management Team is a part of the Infrastructure Support Branch of the Operations Section.