



Joint Task Force Civil Support

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JTF-CS supports national exercise

FORT MONROE, Va. – Joint Task Force Civil Support has deployed numerous teams throughout the nation to provide direct support to U.S. Northern Command, the Department of Homeland Security, FEMA, and local and state emergency responders during an intensive, eight-day national-level exercise May 1-8.

This combined, overarching homeland security event, dubbed NLE 2-08, will test our nation's capabilities in rapidly responding to natural disasters and terrorist attacks. The exercise will specifically test hurricane preparedness and response and support to civil authorities during a weapons of mass destruction incident.

Primary venues for NLE 2-08 include locations in Washington state and Oregon. Scenarios will involve multiple terrorist attacks in Washington state, an accidental chemical agent release in Oregon, a Category 4 hurricane in the mid-Atlantic coast and the District of Columbia, or national capital region, and aerospace events throughout North America.

In support of USNORTHCOM and its assigned components, JTF-CS military and civilian men and women will provide chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and high-yield explosive (CBRNE) consequence management planning support in areas of logistics, medical, public affairs, communications, geospatial information, and engineering. JTF-CS is also augmenting USNORTHCOM with operational exercise support from its headquarters here.

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“NLE-2-08 is another opportunity to continually train to support our local, state, and federal emergency responders,” said Maj. Gen. Daniel E. “Chip” Long Jr., commander of JTF-CS. “What we bring to this exercise are additional capabilities and expertise to help our partners provide the American people with a rapid, well-planned, and well-executed response to any CBRNE incident.”

JTF-CS is a standing joint task force comprising active, Reserve and Guard members from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard, as well as civilian personnel, and is commanded by a federalized Army National Guard General Officer.

Established in October 1999, JTF-CS is a subordinate unit of U.S. Northern Command, a unified combatant command formed in October 2002 to plan, organize and execute both homeland defense and civil support missions. When directed by the President or the Secretary of Defense, USNORTHCOM provides defense support of civil authorities, including consequence management operations.

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For more information on the exercise or for potential media coverage during the exercise, contact Lt. Cmdr. Gary Ross at NORAD and USNORTHCOM Public Affairs: (719) 554-6889 or gary.ross@northcom.mil. For more information on JTF-CS, contact Lt. Col. Jamie Goodpaster: (757) 788-6633 or Jamie.goodpaster@jtfcs.northcom.mil.