

HUMANITARIAN AND CIVIC ASSISTANCE (HCA) PROGRAM

Mission: US military forces are permitted to carry out humanitarian assistance projects and activities as part of training operations overseas. These deployments are an integral aspect of maintaining a forward U. S. military presence, ensuring operational readiness to respond to crises, and preparing the Reserve Components for their wartime missions. HCA activities are conducted in foreign countries in conjunction with authorized military operations and are authorized by 10 USC section 401, DoD Directive 2205.2 and DoD Instruction 2205.3.

HCA activities must promote the security interests of both the US and the recipient countries, and enhance the specific operational skills of the members of the armed forces who participate. The State Department must approve all HCA initiatives. Humanitarian and civic assistance may not be provided (directly or indirectly) to any individual, group, or organization engaged in military or paramilitary activity except when such an activity is the primary support for the civilian population.

Typical HCA projects include medical, dental, and veterinary care provided in rural areas, construction of rudimentary surface transport systems, well drilling and construction of basic sanitation facilities, rudimentary construction and repair of public facilities, and other medical and engineering projects.

Congress appropriates specific funding to the military departments to support the HCA program each year. The Military Departments (MILDEP) act as the Executive Agents for the Combatant Commanders. The Army allocates funds to USEUCOM and USSOUTHCOM; the Navy funds USPACOM; and the Air Force funds USCENTCOM. Authority for the MILDEP to fund HCA activities is contained in Public Law 108-87, the DoD Appropriations Act, 2004, section 8009.

DSCA RESPONSIBILITIES: The Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA) is the DoD approval authority for all HCA projects coordinated through the interagency.

HA/MA RESPONSIBILITIES: Program manager for HCA programs DoD wide. HA/MA coordinates the process of interagency review and approval for the annual project submissions for HCA and all subsequent (out-of-cycle) requests submitted by the geographical commanders. The office is also responsible for monitoring the overall program to ensure that nominations comply fully with US foreign policy and national security objectives, and relevant legislation, before formal approval is provided to the geographical commanders. HA/MA prepares the annual report to Congress required by 10 USC section 401 and Public Law 108-87, the DoD Appropriations Act, 2004, section 8009.