



CURTIS E. LEMAY CENTER FOR DOCTRINE DEVELOPMENT AND EDUCATION



[ANNEX 3-27-HOMELAND OPERATIONS](#)

USAF SUPPORT OF DOD HOMELAND SECURITY

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Within the United States, the [national strategy for homeland security](#) envisions circumstances under which the Department of Defense (DOD) and therefore the Air Force would be involved in improving security at home. Specific instances where the Air Force could play a key role include:

- ✦ Air surveillance, [airspace control](#) alert, and direct air defense operations to defend US citizens and territory. The extraordinary events of 9/11 increased steady-state air defense operations, which have since been normalized and now adjust as needed to known and perceived threats.
- ✦ [Cyberspace operations](#). Because the nation has become more dependent on information technology, defense of the cyberspace domain has become more critical. The Air Force may have a role in this effort, primarily as a force provider to US Cyber Command.
- ✦ Space Defense. The Air Force ensures the nation maintains access to, in, and through the space domain to ensure critical capabilities across the range of military operations.
- ✦ Quick response in support of civilian agencies by providing forces and capabilities during an emergency such as an attack or natural disaster.
- ✦ Participation in “limited scope” missions where other agencies have primary responsibility for security such as at national special security events like the Olympics or the State of the Union address.
- ✦ Support to a joint task force or federal coordinating officer under defense support of civil authorities as a designated incident support base. Support may include use of the installation infrastructure, personnel, equipment, and ancillary resources.

All requests from civilian agencies for DOD assistance, except those provided under mutual aid agreements or in response to imminently serious conditions, flow through the Joint Staff’s Joint Director of Military Support (JDOMS). JDOMS is the clearinghouse for accepting interagency mission assignments. JDOMS routes their recommendation to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff for Secretary of Defense (SecDef) approval.

Regular Air Force Airmen and activated Reservists are always under the command of military commanders up through the SecDef and the President. When Air Force capabilities are provided to civil authorities, the relationship is similar to the direct support role of one military force in support of another. Air Force commanders' priorities should be consistent with DOD guidance in these areas. The same is true when Air National Guard forces are federalized under Title 10, United States Code (U.S.C.); if in Title 32, U.S.C., or state active duty status, they are under the command authority of the state's Adjutant General, responsible to the state governor. In the case of Washington, D.C., where there is no governor, the Adjutant General (TAG) reports to the Commanding General of the District of Columbia. Additionally, at the request of the SecDef, a governor may direct the state's National Guard to directly support a Federal mission or operation while in Title 32, U.S.C., status under a command authority established in a command arrangements agreement and exercised by a combatant commander through a dual-status commander.
