



---

# DoD's Role in Disasters

2 October 2008

Al Johnson

Director, Integrated ICT Support  
OASD/Networks and Information Integration



# DoD Normally Supports DoS and USAID

---

- Per the Foreign Assistance Act (FAA) of 1961, as amended, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)/Bureau for Democracy, Conflict, and Humanitarian Assistance/Office of U.S. Foreign Disaster Assistance (OFDA) has the responsibility to provide foreign disaster assistance and to coordinate the response of the U.S. Government (USG) to disasters abroad. **DoD supports USAID and the U.S. Ambassador in the effected country.**
- Per National Security Presidential Directive 44 (NSPD-44), DoS is the lead US Agency for managing stabilization and reconstruction efforts. **DoD supports the Department of State and USAID in responding to stabilization and reconstruction**
  - Indonesian Tsunami Relief, Pakistan Earthquake, Bangladesh Cyclones, Burma Cyclone, Haiti Hurricane Relief
- When directed, lead the US response for response to a disaster or stabilization and reconstruction efforts.
  - Response to Georgia Situation – Directed by President
- **Be prepared to perform functions that civilian and interagency organizations cannot respond to.**



# DoD Mission in Foreign Disaster Relief

---

- US military is not an instrument of first resort in responding to humanitarian crises but supports civilian relief agencies
- US military may be involved when:
  - **The military provides a unique service**
  - **Civilian response capacity is overwhelmed**
  - **Civilian authorities request assistance**
- When the US military does become involved:
  - **The military mission should be clearly defined**
  - **The risks should be minimal**
  - **Core DoD missions should not be affected**

***“Foreign military and civil defense assets should be requested only where there is no comparable civilian alternative and only the use of military or civil defense assets can meet a critical humanitarian need. The military or civil defense asset must therefore be unique in capability and availability.” – “Oslo Guidelines”***



# DoD Authorities

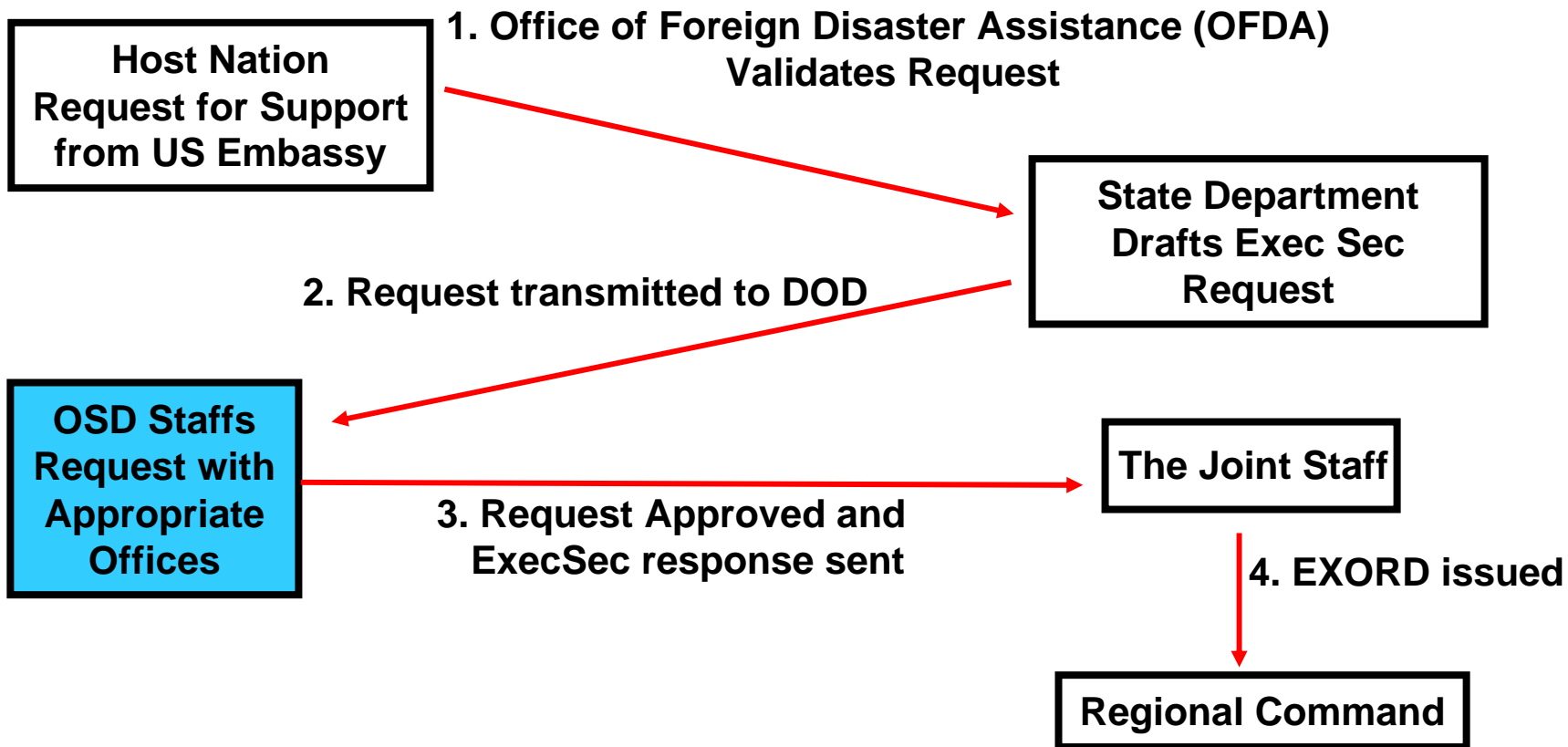
---

- Foreign Disaster Relief is part of a family of activities under the authority of Title 10 United States Code, funded by the *Overseas Humanitarian, Disaster, and Civic Aid* (OHDACA) appropriation (with the exception of HCA)
  - **Foreign Disaster Relief (FDR)**
  - **Emergency Response (ER)**
  - **Humanitarian Assistance (HA)**
  - **Humanitarian Mine Action (HMA)**
  - **Humanitarian Civic Assistance (HCA)**





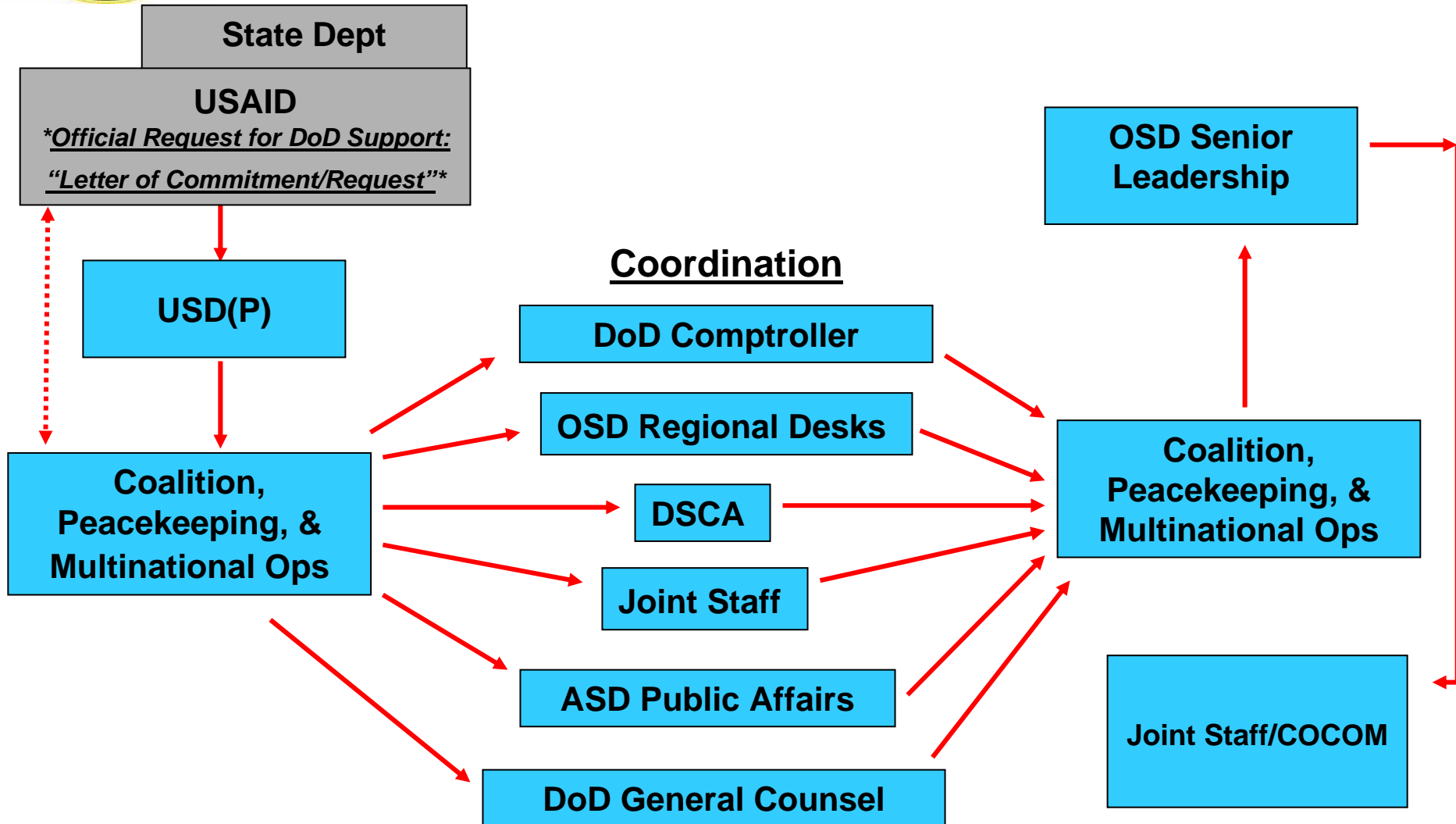
# Requesting DoD Support



*This is the formal process; however, the CoCom and the SecDef may provide assistance (within 72 hrs) without a formal request when a rapid response is seen as in the best interests of the USG and vital to saving life, limb, and property.*



# OSD Foreign Disaster Response Process





# Why DoD?

---

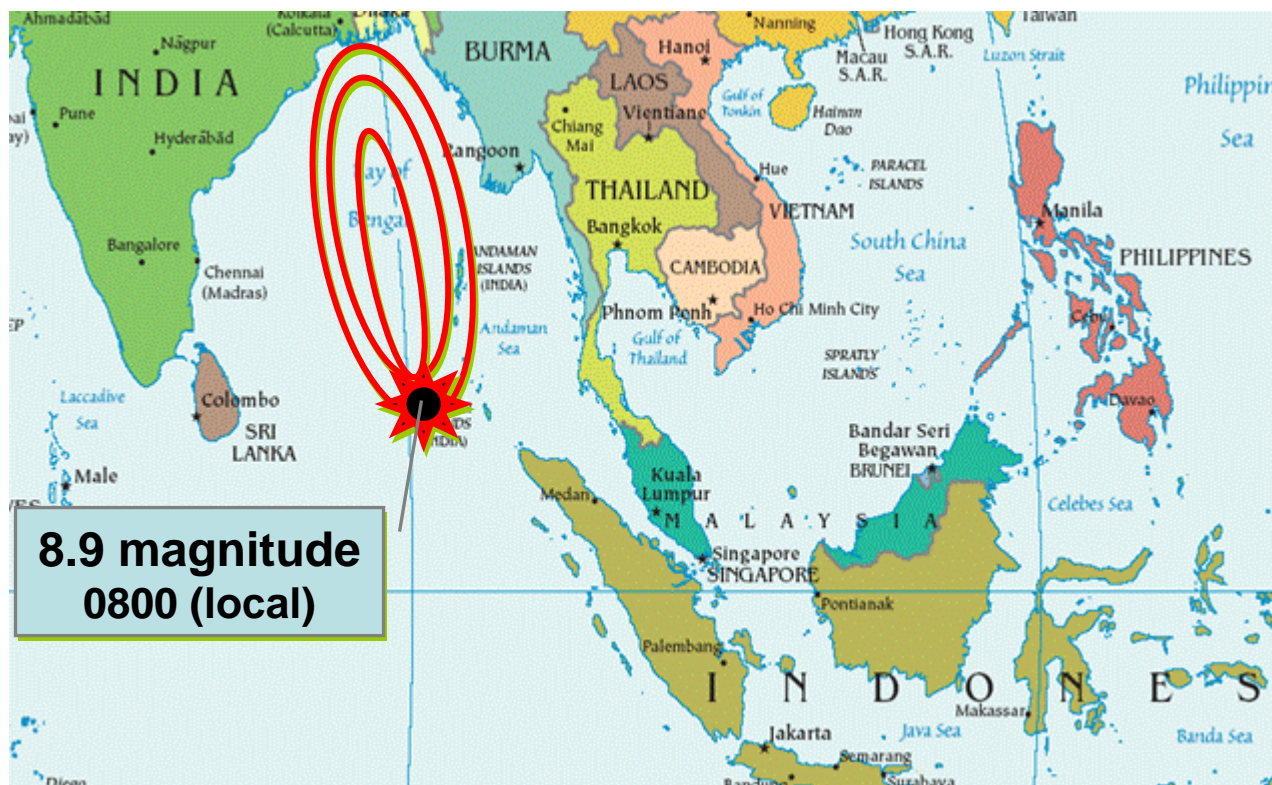
- Strategic air and sea lift resources to move supplies to the disaster area
- Lift capability to assist with aid distribution to remote areas- helicopters, boats, landing craft, airdrop
- Expeditionary medical and communications capabilities
- Available source of dedicated, organized, personnel capable of short-notice rapid response and forward deployed elements.
- Technology resources to assist with damage assessments



# Case Study: Tsunami Overview

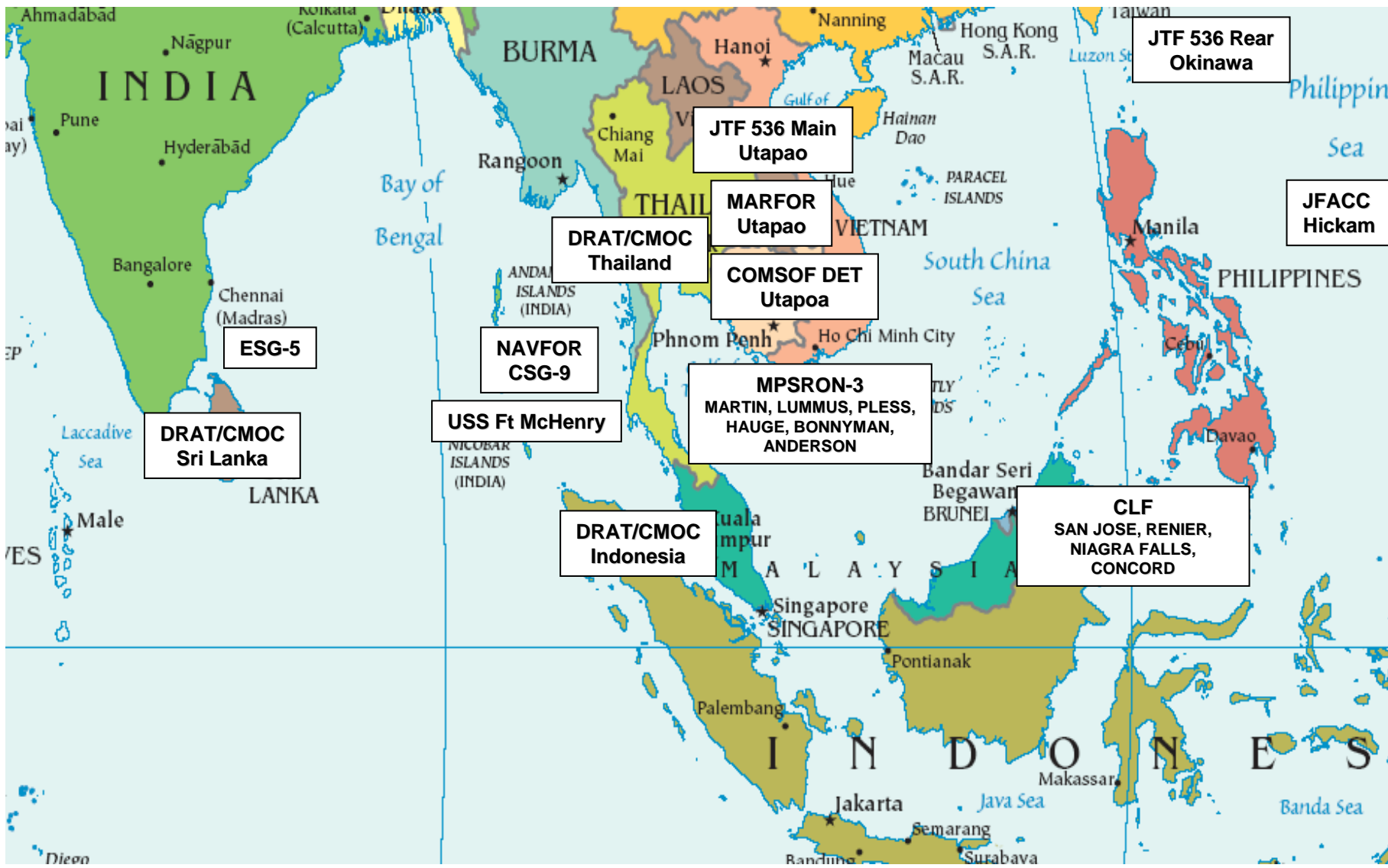
Unclassified information sharing is critical for collaboration during large-scale multinational operations.

- **Series of quakes strike Southeast Asia**
  - From 5.8 – 8.9 on Richter Scale
- **Resulting Tsunami affects large area**
  - Hardest hit:
    - **Indonesia**
      - >236K dead
      - >441K displaced
    - **Sri Lanka**
      - >38K dead
      - >552K displaced
    - **India**
      - >10K dead
      - >112K displaced
    - **Thailand**
      - >5K dead
  - 1.1 million displaced





# DoD Response for Tsunami Relief





# Recent DoD Responses

---

- Haiti (Hurricanes Gustav, Hannah, Ike) Sept 08
- Georgia (Military Conflict) Aug 08
- Philippines (Typhoon Fengshen) June 08
- China (Earthquake) May 08
- Burma (Cyclone Nargis) May 08
- Ecuador (Flooding) March 08
- China (Winter Storms) Feb 08
- Bangladesh Flooding (Cyclone Sidr) Nov 07
- Dominican Republic Flooding (Tropical Storm Noel) Nov 07
- Nicaragua Flooding (Hurricane Felix) Sept 07
- Peru Earthquake (August 07)
- Japan Earthquake (July 07)
- Solomon Islands (Earthquake & Tsunami) April 07
- Kyrgyzstan Earthquakes (Mar 07)
- Bolivia Flooding (Mar 07)



# Backup Slides

---