

AIR OPERATIONS/STATE & REGIONAL DISASTER AIRLIFT (SARDA)

2023

I. INTRODUCTION

A. PURPOSE

The purpose of this appendix is to establish consistent policies, organizational structures, and procedures for the use of aviation support during emergencies in North Carolina.

B. SCOPE

This appendix establishes parameters for the effective integration of aviation assets into disaster response and recovery activities.

II. SITUATION AND ASSUMPTIONS

A. ASSUMPTIONS

1. Disasters will result in a need for aircraft to support operations in the impacted area.
2. State government is responsible for planning, organizing, directing, managing, and controlling Air Operations/State & Regional Disaster Airlift (SARDA) operations prior to activation of the National Response Framework (NRF). After activation of the NRF, the State Air Operations Coordinator (AOC) must contact the Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO) and then coordinate missions closely with NCEOF-1 at the Joint Field Office (JFO).
3. Aviation assets used in disaster aviation support operations in North Carolina will remain under the command of their parent organization/owner/operator.
4. The AOC will coordinate disaster air operations.
5. Airspace control and management rests with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA).
6. The AOC can activate all or part of the SARDA plan.
7. Aircraft, aircrews, support and supplies may be pre-positioned at staging areas in order to be in a position to respond after a disaster strikes.

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8. Civil Air Patrol (CAP) missions are coordinated within the State Emergency Response Team (SERT) and must be approved by either the Commander, NC Wing CAP (if a state mission) or by the US Air Force (if a Federal mission).

III. ORGANIZATION AND ASSIGNMENT OF RESPONSIBILITIES

A. LEAD STATE AGENCY

1. NC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY (NCDPS)

NORTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (NCEM)

- a. Support local government efforts through resource and technical assistance during emergencies and coordinate State and Federal response and recovery activities

B. SUPPORTING STATE AGENCIES

1. NC DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY (NCDPS)

CIVIL AIR PATROL (CAP)

- a. Assist in air search, land rescue, aerial surveillance of surface routes and traffic.
- b. Provide aerial courier/messenger service, light transport flights for personnel and supplies.
- c. Provide aerial reconnaissance and photographic flights for damage assessment as well as fixed, mobile, and airborne communications.
- d. Provide aircraft to support disaster air operations as available.
- e. Provide a CAP liaison officer to support air operations in the SEOC.
- f. Provide ground team support and ground transport
- g. Support and participate in Point of Distribution operations (POD).

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STATE HIGHWAY PATROL (SHP)

- a. Assist in air search and rescue.
- b. Assist in aerial surveillance of surface routes and traffic.
- c. Provide rotary wing aircraft in support of NCHART.
- d. Provide light transport flights for personnel and supplies.
- e. Provide aerial reconnaissance and command and control.
- f. Provide rotary wing aircraft to support disaster air operations as available.
- g. Respond to requests for aviation support from the State EOC.

STATE BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION (SBI)

- a. Assist in aerial surveillance of surface routes and traffic.
- b. Provide aerial courier and messenger service.
- c. Provide light transport flights for personnel and supplies.
- d. Provide aerial reconnaissance and command and control.
- e. Provide fixed, mobile, and airborne communications.
- f. Provide aircraft to support disaster air operations as available.
- g. Respond to requests for aviation support from the State EOC.

NATIONAL GUARD (NCNG)

AIR OPERATIONS COORDINATOR (AOC)

- a. Act as liaison among aviation resource agencies.
- b. Maintain and update aviation resource list and track status of resources during emergencies.

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- c. Identify necessary staffing and activate selected components.
- d. Identify the need for temporary flight restrictions and coordinate the requests with the FAA.
- e. If requested by the FAA, establish restricted airspace management.
- f. As necessary, identify and establish a forward staging area and the associated logistical support necessary for operations.
- g. Brief the State Emergency Operations Center (EOC) on the status of air operations, including current missions, available aircraft by type, locations of staging areas, and proposed priorities for aviation support.
- h. Advise State EOC personnel on aircraft capabilities, recommendations for appropriate mission by type of aircraft, and restrictions or costs associated with use of private sector aircraft.
- i. Respond to requests for aviation support from the State EOC.
- j. Maintain Daily Aviation Activity Logs including all missions flown.
- k. Coordinate maintenance and logistical support for aircraft.
- l. Other operational, managerial and administrative support as needed.

AIR OPERATIONS OFFICER (AOO)

- a. Coordinate flight tasking, sequencing and frequency assignments for military air operations.
- b. Report all flight related data and logistics support requests through the Air Logistics Section (ALS).
- c. Provide aircraft to support disaster air operations as available.
- d. Provide personnel and equipment to support communications as available.

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AIR LOGISTICS SECTION (ALS)

- a. The ALS will be comprised of State Aviation Chief Pilots (SACP) from each of the aviation support agencies.
- b. Responsible for contacting all SACPs in times of need to obtain current aircraft availability, locations and capabilities.
- c. During SERT activation, the ALS is responsible for assisting the AOC in the State EOC by tracking flight hours, fuel costs, support personnel scheduling, passenger manifests, cargo shipments, billing, contracting and other tasks as assigned by the AOC.
- e. Provide aircraft to support disaster air operations as available.
- f. Provide personnel and equipment to support communications as available.

2. NC DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY (NCDEQ)

DIVISION OF MARINE FISHERIES

- a. Assist in aerial surveillance of surface routes and traffic.
- b. Provide aerial courier and messenger service.
- c. Provide light transport flights for personnel and supplies.
- d. Provide aircraft to support disaster air operations as available.

3. NC DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (NCDOT)

DIVISION OF AVIATION

- a. Provide light transport flights for personnel and supplies.
- b. Provide aircraft to support disaster air operations as available.

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**4. NC DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CONSUMER SERVICES
(NCDA&CS)**

NC FOREST SERVICE (NCFS)

- a. Assist in aerial surveillance of surface routes and traffic.
- b. Provide light transport flights for personnel and supplies.
- c. Provide aerial reconnaissance and command and control.
- d. Provide aircraft to support disaster air operations as available.

5. NC DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE (NCDOC)

- a. Provide aircraft to support disaster air operations as available.

6. NC WILDLIFE RESOURCES COMMISSION (NCWRC)

DIVISION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

- a. Assist in aerial surveillance of surface routes and traffic.
- b. Provide aerial courier and messenger service.
- c. Provide light transport flights for personnel and supplies.
- d. Provide aircraft to support disaster air operations as available.

7. AIR MEDICAL OPERATIONS

- a. Assist OEMS with critical care patient transportation.
- b. Provide rotary wing aircraft in support of patient movement.
- c. Respond to requests for aviation support from the State EOC.
- d. Coordinate agency flight tasking, sequencing and frequency assignments with Air SERT Functional Lead.
- e. Provide rotary wing aircraft to support disaster air operations as available.

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IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS

A. GENERAL

Most aviation support will be limited in scope to the site of the disaster area during the assessment. For early reconnaissance flights, the AOC may be called during the initial stages of the event assessment.

During Level I, the AOC may select a location and alert additional staff to support forward air operations. Aviation Liaisons may also be positioned in the State EOC. The Aviation Logistics Section will address the coordination and allocation of resources, staging, logistics, intelligence, reporting, and communications for air support.

During Level II, the AOC would be requested to join state personnel in the State EOC. The AOC is the central point of contact for disaster aviation support activities. Depending on the severity of the situation, or the anticipated levels of air operations, additional staffing may be activated at the State EOC, an airport, or other appropriate facility to support this function.

Funding will be in accordance with the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (Public Law 93-288, as amended).

B. NOTIFICATION

North Carolina Emergency Management, via the State EOC, will notify the AOC when aviation support is required. The AOC will notify the appropriate aviation asset holders as deemed necessary for the incident.