SUBJECT: Civil Affairs

References:  
(a) Section 410 of title 10, United States Code  
(b) DoD Directive 5138.3, "Assistant Secretary of Defense (Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict)," January 4, 1988  
(e) through (i), see enclosure 1

1. PURPOSE

This Directive establishes policy and assigns responsibilities under references (a) through (c) for conducting DoD-wide civil affairs activities.

2. APPLICABILITY AND SCOPE

This Directive applies to:

2.1. The Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), the Military Departments (including the U.S. Coast Guard when it is operating as a Military Service in the Navy), the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Unified Combatant Commands, the Defense Agencies, and the DoD Field Activities (hereafter referred to collectively as "the DoD Components"). The term "Military Services," as used herein, refers to the Army, the Navy, the Air Force, and the Marine Corps.

2.2. Non-DoD organizations that are participating in DoD civil affairs activities or are requesting DoD civil affairs capabilities.
3. **DEFINITIONS**

Terms used in this Directive are defined in enclosure 2.

4. **POLICY**

It is DoD policy that:

4.1. The Department of Defense shall maintain a capability to conduct a broad range of civil affairs activities necessary to support DoD missions and to meet DoD Component responsibilities to the civilian sector in foreign areas in peace and war throughout the range of military operations. Civil affairs activities include, but are not limited to, DoD actions that do the following:

4.1.1. Fulfill the responsibilities of the DoD Components under U.S. domestic and international law towards civilian populations.

4.1.2. Minimize, to the extent feasible, civilian interference with military operations and the impact of military operations on the civilian population.

4.1.3. Coordinate military operations with civilian agencies of the U.S. Government, with civilian agencies of other governments, and with non-governmental organizations.

4.1.4. Exercise military control of the civilian population in occupied or liberated areas until such control can be returned to civilian or other non-U.S. military authority.

4.1.5. Provide assistance to meet the life-sustaining needs of the civilian population.

4.1.6. Provide expertise in civilian sector functions that normally are the responsibility of civilian authorities. That expertise is applied to implement DoD policies to advise or assist in rehabilitating or restoring civilian sector functions.

4.1.7. Establish and conduct military government until civilian authority or government can be restored.
4.2. Civil affairs activities shall be undertaken to achieve an orderly and prompt transition of civilian sector responsibilities from the DoD Components to non-DoD authorities.

4.3. DoD civil affairs activities may be conducted to support national policies and interests as part of an interagency, bilateral, or multinational military or political-military operation, consistent with law and in accordance with applicable DoD Directives and policies.

4.3.1. The Department of Defense shall make DoD civil affairs capabilities available to other U.S. Government Agencies for such operations in accordance with policies in DoD Directive 1000.17 (reference (d)).

4.3.2. On mutual agreement, resources from non-DoD Agencies may be used to augment DoD civil affairs capabilities.

4.4. Before civil affairs activities are conducted, the long-term impact on current U.S. security policy goals and objectives in general and on the host country in particular will be considered.

4.5. Civil affairs is an inherent responsibility of the military commanders when their operations affect or are affected by the local civilian population, resources, or governing institutions.

4.6. Military forces shall not undertake civilian sector rehabilitation activities (subparagraph 4.1.6., above) and military government activities (subparagraph 4.1.7., above) unless directed by the Secretary of Defense, or designated representative. However, this prohibition does not prevent the Heads of the DoD Components and the military commanders from planning for such missions. Nor does it prohibit the use of military forces to support approved humanitarian and civic assistance provided in conjunction with military operations, disaster relief operations conducted in accordance with DoD Directive 5100.46 (reference (e)), or humanitarian actions that provide for the immediate response to prevent the loss of life, property, and needless suffering.

4.7. DoD civil affairs capabilities may be used to assist in domestic emergencies and to provide other support to domestic civil authorities consistent with law and in accordance with DoD Directive 3025.1, DoD Directive 3025.12, DoD Directive 5525.5 (references (f) through (h)), other DoD Directives, and supporting plans.

4.8. U.S. Army civil affairs forces are designated "special operations forces" under 10 U.S.C. 167 (reference (a)).
5. RESPONSIBILITIES

5.1. The Assistant Secretary of Defense (Special Operations and Low-Intensity Conflict), serving under the authority, direction, and control of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, shall:

5.1.1. Act as the principal civilian advisor to the Secretary of Defense and the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy on the policy and planning for DoD civil affairs.

5.1.2. Translate national security policy objectives into specific defense policy objectives achievable through civil affairs.

5.1.3. Formulate DoD civil affairs policies and programs for plans, resources, and implementation of civil affairs activities.

5.1.4. Oversee the implementation of DoD civil affairs policies and programs.

5.1.5. Provide policy advice and assistance to and coordinate with other Principal Staff Assistants about civil affairs activities and the use of civil affairs capabilities for their assigned areas of regional or functional responsibilities.

5.1.6. Act as the OSD point of contact for DoD civil affairs activities that relate to the activities of other U.S. Government Agencies, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations. Monitor interagency use of DoD forces for civil affairs activities and report to the Secretary of Defense whenever it appears that questions may arise with respect to legality or propriety of such use.

5.1.7. In coordination with the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness, approve the detail of civil affairs personnel to duty with interagency groups and non-DoD organizations, in accordance with DoD Directive 1000.17 (reference (d)).

5.1.8. Review program recommendations and budget proposals from the Secretaries of the Military Departments and the Commander in Chief, U.S. Special Operations Command, and provide recommendations on them to the Secretary of Defense.

5.2. The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff shall:

5.2.1. As the principal military advisor to the President, the National Security Council, and the Secretary of Defense, provide advice on civil affairs activities.
5.2.2. Provide guidance for the commanders of the geographic Unified Combatant Commands for the preparation and review of civil affairs plans.

5.2.3. Develop, establish, and promulgate joint civil affairs doctrine.

5.2.4. Formulate policies for coordinating joint training in civil affairs activities.

5.3. The Commanders of the Unified Combatant Commands with geographical areas of responsibility, in coordination with the chiefs of the U.S. diplomatic missions, shall:

5.3.1. Plan, support, and conduct civil affairs activities in their areas of responsibility. These activities shall be designed to achieve the following:

5.3.1.1. Support the Unified Combatant Commander's missions and objectives.

5.3.1.2. Support the goals and programs of other U.S. Government Agencies related to civil affairs consistent with those authorities governing DoD involvement.

5.3.1.3. Provide for training of U.S. civil affairs forces within their areas of responsibility. Coordinate the training with the Commander in Chief, U.S. Special Operations Command (USCINCSOC), for civil affairs units and personnel assigned to the U.S. Special Operations Command (USSOCOM).

5.3.1.4. Effect coordination and liaison with other U.S. Government Agencies operating in their areas of responsibility.

5.3.2. Ensure the integration of civil affairs activities into military plans.

5.3.3. Designate a staff element with responsibility for coordinating civil affairs activities.

5.4. The Commander in Chief, U.S. Special Operations Command, shall:

5.4.1. Provide other Unified Combatant Commanders with civil affairs forces from assigned forces that are organized, trained, and equipped to plan and conduct civil affairs activities in support of their missions.
5.4.2. Train and organize assigned civil affairs forces and monitor their preparedness to carry out assigned missions of special operation forces, including Army civil affairs forces assigned to other Combatant Commands.

5.4.3. Prepare and submit to the Secretary of Defense program recommendations and budget proposals for Special Operations Forces' unique activities and equipment for Army civil affairs forces.

5.4.4. Exercise authority, direction, and control over the expenditure of funds for Special Operations Forces' unique activities and equipment for assigned civil affairs forces.

5.4.5. Validate civil affairs requirements.

5.4.6. Under the direction of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, assist in developing joint civil affairs strategy, doctrine, tactics, techniques, and procedures.

5.4.7. Conduct specialized civil affairs education and individual training for assigned officers and noncommissioned officers and nonassigned DoD and non-DoD personnel.

5.4.8. Establish standards to ensure interoperability of civil affairs equipment and forces.

5.5. The Secretaries of the Military Departments shall:

5.5.1. Develop and maintain programs necessary to plan, conduct, and/or support civil affairs activities to meet their Service and Combatant Command requirements.

5.5.2. Provide for civil affairs personnel in their force structures or request such civil affairs forces from the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The Secretaries of the Military Departments with civil affairs units and personnel in their Reserve components shall provide for the timely mobilization and activation of such units and personnel as required to perform civil affairs activities in accordance with DoD Directive 1235.10 (reference (i)).

5.5.3. Assume DoD-wide responsibilities for specific civil affairs missions when directed by the Secretary of Defense.

5.6. The Secretary of the Army shall:
5.6.1. In coordination with USCINCSOC, recruit, organize, train, equip, mobilize, and sustain Army civil affairs forces.

5.6.2. In coordination with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and USCINCSOC, provide for civil affairs personnel and units in the Army military force structure that are capable of providing functional expertise in civilian sector disciplines necessary for civil assistance and military government missions.

5.6.3. In accordance with USCINCSOC-validated requirements and reference (i), provide for the timely mobilization or activation of Army Reserve civil affairs units or personnel required to perform civil affairs activities in the accomplishment of Combatant Command missions.

5.6.4. Furnish to the other Military Departments, at their request and in coordination with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and USCINCSOC, U.S. Army personnel qualified in civil affairs.

6. **EFFECTIVE DATE**

This Directive is effective immediately.

\[Signature\]

John M. Deutch  
Deputy Secretary of Defense

Enclosures - 2  
E1. References, continued  
E2. Definitions
E1. ENCLOSURE 1

REFERENCES, continued

(e) DoD Directive 5100.46, "Foreign Disaster Relief," December 4, 1975
(f) DoD Directive 3025.1, "Military Support to Civil Authorities (MSCA)," January 15, 1993
E2. DEFINITIONS

E2.1.1. Civil Affairs. The activities of a commander that establish, maintain, influence, or exploit relations between military forces and civil authorities, both governmental and non-governmental, and the civilian population in a friendly, neutral, or hostile area of operations in order to facilitate military operations and consolidate operational objectives. Civil affairs may include performance by military forces of activities and functions normally the responsibility of local government. These activities may occur prior to, during, or subsequent to other military actions. They may also occur, if directed, in the absence of military operations.

E2.2.2. Civil Affairs Capabilities. Civil affairs forces and other DoD units and organizations that are capable of planning, conducting, or otherwise assisting in civil affairs activities.

E2.2.3. Civil Affairs Forces. Military units, detachments, or other military organizations that are designated as "civil affairs" organizations and are mission-oriented and trained to plan and conduct civil affairs activities. Also includes personnel who are trained and qualified in civil affairs.

E2.2.4. Civil Affairs Missions. Missions assigned to the DoD Components that are primarily designed to assist the civil sector.

E2.2.5. Civil Assistance. Activities undertaken by the DoD Components to assist the civilian sector in foreign areas and in the United States and its territories.

E2.2.6. Humanitarian and Civic Assistance. Assistance to the local populace provided by predominantly U.S. Forces in conjunction with military operations and exercises. This assistance is specifically authorized by 10 U.S.C. 401 (reference (a)) and funded under separate authorities.

E2.2.7. Military Government. The form of administration by which an occupying power exercises executive, legislative, and judicial authority over occupied territory.