



ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
2600 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301-2600

HOMELAND DEFENSE &
GLOBAL SECURITY

The Honorable Mike R. Pence
President of the Senate
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Mr. President:

This letter is intended to serve as the report on the preparedness of the Department of Defense (DoD) to provide support to non-contiguous States and territories in response to disasters, threats, and emergencies. This report was requested by House Report 115-874, which accompanied H.R. 5515, the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (Public Law 115-232).

The American public expects DoD to be prepared to assist civil authorities in saving and sustaining lives in response to disasters, threats, and emergencies throughout the United States, including in non-contiguous States such as Alaska and Hawaii and territories such as Guam and Puerto Rico. DoD understands this and is well-prepared to meet this expectation.

DoD preparedness is tested almost every year by real-world disasters in non-contiguous States and territories. For example, over the last five years, DoD supported: seven major disasters in Alaska (e.g., severe storms and flooding); two major disasters in American Samoa (Tropical Cyclone Amos in 2016 and Tropic Storm Gita in 2018); six disasters in Guam (Typhoon Vongfong in 2014 and Typhoons Dolphin, Soudelor, and IN-FA and Tropical Storm Chan-hom in 2015, and Typhoon Mangkhut in 2018), three of which were declared major disasters); nine disasters in Hawaii (e.g., Tropical Storm Ana in 2014; Hurricane Ignacio in 2015; Hurricane Madeline, Hurricane Lester, and Tropical Storm Darby in 2016; and the Kilauea volcano eruption, Hurricane Lane, and Tropical Storm Olivia in 2018), seven of which were declared major disasters; four major disasters in the North Mariana Islands (Typhoon Vongfong in 2014, Typhoon Soudelor in 2015, and Typhoons Mangkhut and Yutu in 2018); three disasters in Puerto Rico (the Zika outbreak in 2016 and Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria in 2017), two of which were declared major disasters; and two major disasters in the U.S. Virgin Islands (Hurricane Irma and Hurricane Maria in 2017).

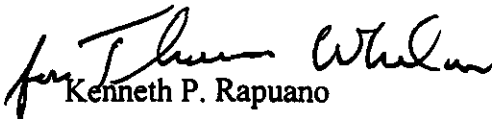
Exercises are also critical to ensuring preparedness and identifying gaps and potential weaknesses within and across agencies in responding to disasters. DoD has fully supported the Federal Emergency Management Agency-led National Exercise Program. For years, DoD has also hosted numerous exercises involving Federal, State, and local partners. For instance, over the last five years, DoD has sponsored or participated in multiple exercises in Alaska (e.g., Alaska Shield/Ardent Sentry 2014; Arctic Edge 2014; CAPSTONE 2014; Vigilant Guard 2014; Arctic Zephyr 2015; Arctic Chinnok 2016; Arctic Edge 2018), Hawaii (e.g., the Makani Pahili

2015 hurricane response exercise and Vigilant Guard 2015); Vigilant Guard 2015; and Vigilant Guard 2017), Puerto Rico (e.g., Hurricane Preparedness Exercise 2018), and the U.S. Virgin Islands (e.g., Vigilant Guard 2017).

Preparation of this report cost DoD a total of approximately \$1,410 in Fiscal Years 2018 - 2019. This includes \$1,130 in expenses and \$290 in DoD labor (Generated on August 14, 2018; RefID: 5-780F495).

Thank you for your continued support of the U.S. Armed Forces. A similar letter will be sent to the Speaker of the House and the chairmen of the congressional defense committees.

Sincerely,


Kenneth P. Rapuano



**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION DIVISION
1155 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1155**

JAN 04 2019
Ref: 19-F-0318

Steven Aftergood
Federation of American Scientists
1112 16th Street NW
Suite 400
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Mr. Aftergood:


This is the final response to your November 21, 2018 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request, a copy of which is enclosed for your convenience. We received your request on November 21, 2018 and assigned it case number 19-F-0318. We ask that you use this number when referring to your request.

The Under Secretary of Defense for Policy (USDP), a component of the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD), conducted a search of their records systems and provided the enclosed document, totaling 12 pages, determined to be responsive to your request. This record is appropriate for release in its entirety, without excision.

This constitutes a full grant of your request, and closes your case file in this office. There are no assessable fees associated with this response.

I trust that this information fully satisfies your request. If you need further assistance or would like to discuss any aspect of your request, please do not hesitate to contact the Action Officer assigned to your request, Stephanie Radman, at stephanie.a.radman.civ@mail.mil or (571) 372-0412. Our FOIA Public Liaison is also available to assist you and may be reached at (571) 372-0462.

Sincerely,


Stephanie L. Carr
Chief

Enclosures:
As stated