Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination and the Oslo Guidelines
**Rationale:** The Oslo Guidelines address the need for principles and standards and to provide improved coordination in the use of military and civil defence assets.

They establish the basic framework for formalizing and improving the effectiveness and efficiency of the use of military teams, assets and expertise in international disaster relief.

**Scope:** Response to natural, technological and environmental emergencies in peacetime.

**Target audience:**
- UN humanitarian agencies and their implementing partners;
- Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC);
- Military Commanders in charge of deployment of foreign or UN MCDA to support humanitarian operations;
- All humanitarian actors;
- Member States and International Organizations.
Para 5: *Last Resort*: Foreign military and civil defence assets should be requested only where there is no comparable civilian alternative and only the use of military or civil defence assets can meet a critical humanitarian need. The military or civil defence asset must therefore be unique in capability and availability.

Para 24: Military and civil defence assets should be seen as a tool complementing existing relief mechanisms.

Para 25: All disaster relief...should be provided at the request or with the consent of the Affected State and, in principle, on the basis of an appeal for international assistance.

Para 34: As a general principle, UN humanitarian agencies must avoid becoming dependent on military resources and Member States are encouraged to invest in increased civilian capacity instead of the ad hoc use of military forces to support humanitarian actors.
Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination

• Humanitarian assistance must be provided IAW the core principles of humanity, neutrality and impartiality and with full respect for sovereignty of states.

• The humanitarian imperative is the basic principle and condition for humanitarian assistance

• Assistance based on actual needs and delivered by actors that have no political interest or stake in the situation.

• Appropriate use of MCDA contributes to the safety and long-term perception of humanitarian workers as neutral agents in the field.
Range of Interfaces for Humanitarian-Military Liaison

The UN-CMCoord function facilitates the establishment and maintenance of all possible interfaces.
Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination in Response Operations

- Security is the Primary Expectation
- Key Engagement Areas:
  - Security/Deconfliction
  - Logistics
  - Medical/Health
  - Engineering
  - Planning Assistance
  - Information Technology
- Direct vs. Indirect Support
Hierarchy of Humanitarian Tasks Performed

Direct Assistance:
Face-to-face distribution of goods and services - handing out relief goods, providing first aid, transporting people, interviewing refugees, locating families etc.

Indirect Assistance:
At least one step removed from the population - transporting relief goods, building camps and shelters, providing water sources, clearing mines and ordinance, etc.

Infrastructure Support:
General services that facilitate relief, but are not necessarily visible to, or solely for, the benefit of the affected population - repairing infrastructure, operating airfields, providing weather info, ensuring access to communications networks, etc.
# Appropriate Relief Tasks of Military Actors

- based on missions

## Availability and impartiality of forces decreases

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<th>Humanitarian Tasks</th>
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Humanitarian Civil-Military Coordination

- Information Sharing as the basis for relationships
  - Challenges:
    - No common operating picture
    - Classification
    - Proliferation of systems
    - Sharing of Best Practices
  - Liaison and engagement more standardized
  - Coordination based on Context
    - Early guidance on the humanitarian relationship with military actors.
    - Country-specific guidelines
    - Wider responsibility throughout the humanitarian community to coordinate
  - Limited predictability in number/type of military assets that are provided