

### § 501.3

civil disturbances incident to earthquake, fire, flood, or other public calamity endangering life or Federal property or disrupting Federal functions or the normal processes of Government, or other equivalent emergency so imminent as to make it dangerous to await instructions from the Department of the Army requested through the speediest means of communications available, an officer of the Active Army in command of troops may take such action, before the receipt of instructions, as the circumstances of the case reasonably justify. However, in view of the availability of rapid communications capabilities, it is unlikely that action under this authority would be justified without prior Department of the Army approval while communications facilities are operating. Such action, without prior authorization, of necessity may be prompt and vigorous, but should be designed for the preservation of law and order and the protection of life and property until such time as instructions from higher authority have been received, rather than as an assumption of functions normally performed by the civil authorities.

(b) Emergency firefighting assistance may be provided pursuant to agreements with local authorities; emergency explosive ordnance disposal service may be provided in accordance with paragraph 18, AR 75-15.

#### **§ 501.3 Command authority.**

(a) In the enforcement of the laws, Federal Armed Forces are employed as a part of the military power of the United States and act under the orders of the President as Commander in Chief. When commitment of Federal Armed Forces has taken place, the duly designated military commander at the objective area will act to the extent necessary to accomplish his mission. In the accomplishment of his mission, reasonable necessity is the measure of his authority, subject of course, to instructions he may receive from his superiors.

(b) Federal Armed Forces committed in aid of the civil authorities will be under the command of, and directly responsible to, their military and civilian superiors through the Department

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of the Army chain of command. They will not be placed under the command of an officer of the State Defense Forces or of the National Guard not in the Federal service, or of any local or State civil official; any unlawful or unauthorized act on the part of such troops would not be excusable on the ground that it was the result of an order received from any such officer or official. As directed by the Army Chief of Staff, military commanders will be responsive to authorized Federal civil officials.

#### **§ 501.4 Martial law.**

It is unlikely that situations requiring the commitment of Federal Armed Forces will necessitate the declaration of martial law. When Federal Armed Forces are committed in the event of civil disturbances, their proper role is to support, not supplant, civil authority. Martial law depends for its justification upon public necessity. Necessity gives rise to its creation; necessity justifies its exercise; and necessity limits its duration. The extent of the military force used and the actual measures taken, consequently, will depend upon the actual threat to order and public safety which exists at the time. In most instances the decision to impose martial law is made by the President, who normally announces his decision by a proclamation, which usually contains his instructions concerning its exercise and any limitations thereon. However, the decision to impose martial law may be made by the local commander on the spot, if the circumstances demand immediate action, and time and available communications facilities do not permit obtaining prior approval from higher authority (§ 501.2). Whether or not a proclamation exists, it is incumbent upon commanders concerned to weigh every proposed action against the threat to public order and safety it is designed to meet, in order that the necessity therefor may be ascertained. When Federal Armed Forces have been committed in an objective area in a martial law situation, the population of the affected area will be informed of the rules of conduct and other restrictive measures the military is authorized to enforce. These will normally be announced by

proclamation or order and will be given the widest possible publicity by all available media. Federal Armed Forces ordinarily will exercise police powers previously inoperative in the affected area, restore and maintain order, insure the essential mechanics of distribution, transportation, and communication, and initiate necessary relief measures.

**§ 501.5 Protection of Federal property.**

The right of the United States to protect Federal property or functions by intervention with Federal Armed Forces is an accepted principle of our Government. This form of intervention is warranted only where the need for protection exists and the local civil authorities cannot or will not give adequate protection. This right is exercised by executive authority and extends to all Federal property and functions.

**§ 501.6 End of commitment.**

The use of Federal Armed Forces for civil disturbance operations should end as soon as the necessity therefor ceases and the normal civil processes can be restored. Determination of the end of the necessity will be made by the Department of the Army.

**§ 501.7 Loan of military resources to civil authorities.**

(a) The Department of the Army in certain limited situations can lend military equipment to civil law enforcement authorities in the event of civil disturbances. Such loans of equipment are limited to those necessary to meet an urgent need during an actual civil disturbance (except as provided in paragraph (b) of this section) and the loans are considered to be a temporary emergency action. Civil law enforcement authorities are to be encouraged to procure their own equipment for police use since, even though requests are handled expeditiously, normally some time will elapse before the military equipment can be in the hands of the civil law enforcement authorities. Law enforcement authorities are to be cautioned not to rely on the loan of military equipment in the event of a civil disturbance in their locality because the availability of military equipment

for civilian use is contingent upon military requirements for the Department of the Army resources.

(b) A loan agreement will be executed with the civil authority in each case. The agreement will indicate that the property may be retained by the civil authorities only for the duration of the civil disturbance, but for not more than 15 days; however, should the civil disturbance exceed 15 days the approving authority may extend the agreement for another 15-day period. It is recognized that there is often a substantial leadtime before equipment procured by civil law enforcement authorities will be delivered to them. For this reason loans of equipment beyond the 15-day limit are authorized when a request is made in anticipation of imminent threatened civil disturbance and the civil authority requesting the loan has initiated procurement action for equipment substantially similar to the military property requested. Loans may be approved for terms of up to 90 days pending delivery to the civil authority of its own equipment and renewed by the approving authority for another 90-day period if necessary.

(c) Each loan agreement will contain provisions for a cash bond, performance bond, or the equivalent equal to the value of the loaned equipment, as a condition to making the loan; waiver of the requirement to post bond will be approved only by the Department of the Army. With the prior concurrence of the Department of the Army, the bond will be forfeited in the event the equipment is not returned at the time specified. However, the forfeiture of the bond will not constitute a sale of the equipment, and the borrower will not be relieved of his obligation to return the loaned equipment. Loan agreements will clearly state the expenses and obligations assumed by the civil authority.

**PART 502—RELIEF ASSISTANCE**

DISASTER RELIEF

Sec.

502.1 Purpose and applicability.

502.2 Definitions.

502.3 Provisions of disaster relief legislation and Executive orders and other authorities.