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## LESSON 5

# HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE

*Large-scale migration from Haiti has been stemmed because we gave democracy another chance in that nation. In the months before we forced the military rulers to step down, 16,000 Haitians fled their country for our shores and elsewhere in the region. Three months after the intervention, the refugee flow was practically zero.*

--A U.S. National Security  
and Enlargement February, 1996

Strategy of Engagemen

## Introduction

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**Purpose** This lesson provides an introduction to humanitarian assistance operations.

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**Why Study Humanitarian Assistance?** All operations are in part humanitarian assistance, sometimes as the dominant feature of the military's activities. Sometimes humanitarian assistance is clearly subordinate to traditional military roles.

Humanitarian assistance operations relieve or reduce the results of natural or manmade disasters or other endemic conditions such as human pain, disease, hunger, or privation.

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**Relationship to Other Instruction** This lesson reinforces many of the recurring themes presented throughout this course.

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**Study Time** This lesson, including the issues for consideration, will require about 1.5 hours of study.

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## Educational Objectives

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**Principles of OOTW** Explain the importance of the principles of OOTW (objective, unity of effort, security, restraint, perseverance, legitimacy) and their applicability during humanitarian assistance operations. [JPME Areas 2(a), 3(a), and 3(b)]

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**Humanitarian Assistance** Discuss how DoD, in conjunction with other government agencies, interfaces to accomplish humanitarian assistance operations. [JPME Area 1(b)]

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**Political Sensitivities** Evaluate the potential political sensitivities involved in humanitarian assistance operations. [JPME Area 4(b)]

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**JPME Area/  
Objectives/Hours  
(accounting data)** 1/b/0.25  
2/a/0.25  
3/a/0.25  
3/b/0.5  
4/b/0.25

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## Discussion

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### **Humanitarian Assistance**

One could ascribe humanitarian goals to almost any military operation, from domestic flood relief to the coalition assault against Iraq in 1991 (which had as one of its motivating principles a mission to relieve the Kuwaitis' from their suffering under Iraq occupation).

All operations are in part humanitarian assistance--sometimes as the dominant feature of the military activities and, sometimes humanitarian assistance is clearly subordinate.

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### **Operations**

Humanitarian assistance operations relieve or reduce the results of natural or manmade disasters or other endemic conditions such as pain, disease, hunger, or privation.

Operations to relieve the suffering resulting from population movements are included in humanitarian assistance. These population movements are commonly referred to as refugee flows--those people fleeing their native country for various political, economic, or religious reasons.

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### **DoD Assistance**

Humanitarian assistance provided by U.S. forces is generally limited in scope and duration; it is intended to supplement or complement efforts of host nation civil authorities or agencies with the primary responsibility for providing assistance.

DoD provides assistance when the need is gravely urgent and when the humanitarian emergency overwhelms the ability of normal relief agencies to effectively respond.

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### **National Command Authority**

Humanitarian assistance operations may be directed by the National Command Authority (NCA) when a serious international situation threatens the political or military stability of a region considered of interest to the U.S. or when the NCA deems the humanitarian situation itself sufficient and appropriate for employment of U.S. forces.

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## **Discussion, Continued**

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### **Missions**

Humanitarian assistance operations cover a broad range of missions. U.S. military forces participate in three basic types of humanitarian assistance operations as follows:

wThose coordinated by the U.N.

wThose where the U.S. acts in concert with other multinational forces

wThose where the U.S. responds unilaterally

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## Required Readings

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***Joint Pub  
Readings***

Joint Pub 3-07, *Joint Doctrine for Military Operations Other Than War*, pp. II-1 to II-8, and III-4 to III-8. Find this reading in the *Joint Pub Readings* Vol. III (8800), pp. 829 to 836 and pp. 838 to 842. The reading covers requirements for and examples of humanitarian operations.

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***Operations Other  
Than War  
(OOTW)  
Readings***

Allen, John R. (LtCol) USMC. "Humanity in Humanitarian Operations: How Much Violence is Enough?" *Marine Corps Gazette*, February 1995. Find this reading in the *Operations Other Than War (OOTW) Readings*, Annex E, pp. E- to E-. The training and experience that make Marines a decisive force on the battlefield will also help them prevail when carefully measured violent responses are needed during humanitarian operations. As in war, troops facing a potentially violent civilian group must take the initiative, use intelligence and surprise to keep their adversaries (criminals and troublemakers) off balance, and use equipment and technology to full advantage.

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## For Further Study

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### Supplemental Readings

The readings listed are **not** required. They are provided as recommend sources of additional information about topics in this lesson that may interest you. They will increase your knowledge and augment your understanding of this lesson.

*wJoint Pub 3-0, Doctrine for Joint Operations.*

*wJoint Pub 3-07, Joint Doctrine for Military Operations Other Than War.*

*wJoint Force Commander's Handbook for Peace Operations.*

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## Issues for Consideration

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**Political  
Objective**

Will there always be a clear political objective and achievable end state in humanitarian assistance operations?

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**Training  
Concerns**

What are some of the small unit training concerns for military personnel involved in humanitarian assistance operations?

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**Complexities**

What are some of the complexities of humanitarian assistance operations?

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**Violence  
Supremacy**

What is LtCol Allen's concept of "violence supremacy"? How does this concept apply to humanitarian assistance operations?

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