



FEMA

US&R GENERAL MEMORANDUM – 2016-077

September 13, 2016

FOR: National Urban Search & Rescue Response System
Task Force Representatives

FROM: Dean Scott, Chief
Operations Section
Urban Search and Rescue Branch

SUBJECT: US&R General Memorandum 2016-077 – Advisory Organization – 21-Day
Review – Mission Ready Packages Handbook

Based on National Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Response System (the System) discussions including the Strategic Group, Task Force Representatives, and the US&R Branch, the ability to deploy modular resources has been a goal of the National Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Response System (the System) since early in its inception.

The Strategic Group requested a recommendation from the Advisory Group on how to properly develop a process for the System to deploy modular resources. The Response Operations Ad Hoc Group developed a handbook to address this tasking to meet the requirement and the Operations Functional Group has submitted recommendation OP -2016-007 – *Mission Ready Packages*.

While historically the System has utilized the term “modular deployment” to describe the mobilization of specialized or discipline specific resources, the term “Mission Ready Packages” (MRPs) is more consistent with National Incident Management System (NIMS) descriptive terminology. The use of MRPs also brings the System in line with Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) terminology.

System MRPs are specially created resource packages to be utilized for disaster recovery and response. The MRPs are intended to be capabilities that are organized, developed, trained, and exercised prior to an emergency or disaster. These MRPs are designed to provide additional support and/or to augment a needed capability to System resources, already operating at an incident or event. The use of Mission Ready Packages is not intended to replace a requesting agency’s ability to request individual resources in support of a response. System MRPs may also be deployed to provide specific mission capabilities to a requesting agency in support of the Authority Having Jurisdiction.

The System MRPs are intended to support both internal and external requests for assistance. They are designed for rapid deployment and can be requested, located within the System, ordered, and tracked effectively during an emergency, when time is of the essence. As such, all members of each MRP are expected to be from the same task force, when appropriate.

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The Operations Functional Group has submitted recommendation OP -2016-007 – *Mission Ready Packages*. Please review and comment on the attached *Mission Ready Package Handbook (09-12-16) – Draft* as to whether it addresses the System’s needs, identifies process changes, considers budgetary impacts, and includes appropriate courses of action.

Comments must be submitted online using the System’s *US&R Comment Review Form*. For every comment being made a new form needs to be submitted; do not combine issues or comments into one form. If the recommendation is supported with no comments, it will move forward to the next approval step. If further work is required for the document to be supported, it will be sent back for additional work, adjudication of comments, and resubmission into the approval process. **If a task force accepts the document as reviewed, one comment form should be submitted stating that the task force has no comment. Task Force Representatives should ensure that all comments are submitted by COB October 4, 2016.**

Questions regarding this document review process may be directed to Dean Scott of the US&R Branch at: dean.scott@fema.dhs.gov.

Attachments:

Mission Ready Package Handbook (09-12-16) - Draft

cc:

US&R Strategic Group

US&R Advisory Group

US&R Branch Staff

FEMA Regional/Federal/International ESF #9 Representatives