Legal Assistance in Response to Natural Disaster

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Discussion

• Internal contingency planning and marshalling resources for event
• Deploying resources
• Providing legal assistance
• Additional available resources
Coast Guard Legal Assistance

- 10 U.S. Code § 1044
  - Eligible clients
  - Jurisdictional authorization

- Commandant Instruction 5801.4E
Coast Guard Districts
Preparation

• Structural changes
  – Legal Service Command
  – Reserve Judge Advocate Program

• Training
  – TJAG SOP 17A

• Outreach
  – Readiness Checklist
Legal Service Command

- TJAG’s executive agent for coordinating responses and support to emergencies
- Offices in Alameda, CA and Arlington and Norfolk, VA
Emergency Response

• First level
  – Assumes district office will largely be able to address the situation
  – Advance coordination (if potential emergency evident) with LSC
  – Remote support from LSC as requested
Emergency Response (cont.)

• Second level
  – District office requests assistance
  – LSC sends in Legal Support Team (LST)
    • Legal assistance
    • Military and civilian claims
    • Contracting/procurement, and
    • Mission support law
Emergency Response (cont.)

• Third level
  – Situation needs more support than initial LST can provide (scope, duration or both)
    • LSC coordinates with headquarters to access all available resources
      – RJAG
      – Personnel from other districts and headquarters