



## **EXERCISE-EXERCISE-EXERCISE**

# **AFNORTH Directorate of Public Affairs**

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*FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE*

## **AFNORTH PROVIDING CIVIL SUPPORT**

TYNDALL AIR FORCE BASE, Fla. – Air Forces Northern is providing airlift, aeromedical evacuation, medical support, aerial assessment and airspace control, and civil engineering capabilities that support the Federal Emergency Management Agency requests for Department of Defense assistance for in response to Thursday’s deadly explosion and chemical release.

“Like all citizens, we are saddened by the significant loss of life,” said Maj. Gen. Hank Morrow, AFNORTH commander. “America’s Air Force has answered the call for emergency assistance for this crisis. Our folks are working long hours under difficult circumstances to help Americans in need.”

When FEMA requested DOD resources to help with the relief operations in the National Capital Region, AFNORTH sent an Air Component Coordination Element to Fort Lewis, Wash.

The Air Component Coordination Element, or ACCE, is the Air Force organization designed to perform the command and control function for Air Force assets supporting the relief efforts in and around the Fort Lewis area.

Brig. Gen. John Del Toro is serving as the commander of the ACCE team.

The ACCE is providing critical assistance in areas needing it most; delivering essential supplies, conducting vital command and control of rescues and evacuation of survivors from the disaster area.

“Defense support to civil authorities is a total team effort,” said General Del Toro. “We coordinate all USAF capabilities for the task force, and work directly with civilian experts to support their operations. We provide this support without degradation to our homeland defense mission.”

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