Unit 5:
NIMS Coordination: MAC Groups and the Joint Information System
Unit Terminal Objective

Explain the interconnectivity between the MAC Group, EOCs, the Joint Information System, and Incident Command.
Unit Enabling Objectives

• Explain the functions and purpose of a Multiagency Coordination Group.
• Explain the functions and purpose of a Joint Information System.
• Describe the interconnectivity of the NIMS Command and Coordination systems.
NIMS Components

Resource Management

Command and Coordination

Communications and Information Management

- Incident Command System
- Emergency Operations Center
- Multiagency Coordination Groups
- Joint Information Systems
Multiagency Coordination Group

Multiagency Coordination Group (MAC Group):
Offsite Policy Guidance and Resource Prioritization/Allocation

Emergency Operations Centers (EOC)
Support to Incident Command, and/or other Operations and Coordination Centers

ICS, Incident Command
On-scene Incident Management

An Area Command is established only when needed due to the complexity or number of incidents

Role of regional components varies depending on scope and magnitude of the incident
The MAC Group

- Provides policy guidance
- Supports resource prioritization and allocation
- Enables decision-making among elected and appointed officials and senior executives
- Is often comprised of:
  - Elected officials
  - Senior decision-makers
  - Senior public safety officials
  - High-level, subject-matter experts
The SR Official/ MAC Group Role

- Define the mission and strategic direction
- Identify operational priorities
- Provide policy guidance to EOC, IC and JIC/PIO
- Resolve scarce resource allocation issues
- Delegate command authority to the IC/ UC
- Delegate appropriate authority to the EOC and JIS
- Determine the MAC Group decision-making process
- Determine who will be included in the MAC Group
- Issue Initial Policy Statement to guide the EOC
- Determine reporting requirements
Operational Priorities

MAC Groups apply priorities at policy level:
• Save lives
• Protect property and environment
• Stabilize the incident
• Provide for basic human needs
• Restore essential utilities.
• Restore essential program functions.
• Coordinate among appropriate stakeholders
• Represent Political, Financial and Legal Concerns.
Multiagency Coordination Entities

**JIC (Joint Information Center):**
- Critical emergency information.
- Crisis communications.
- Public affairs functions

**EOC (Emergency Operations Center):**

**PIO (Public Information Officer):**
- Represents and advises Incident Command.
- Manages media and public inquiries.

**Senior Official & Spokesperson:**
Managing Public Information

The Public Information Officer (PIO):

• Manages media and public inquiries.
• May be separate PIOs for:
  • Incident Command
  • EOC
  • Senior Official / MAC Group

PIOs coordinate and disseminate incident information through the JIC:

• Critical emergency information
• Crisis communications
• Public affairs functions
NIMS Describes Systems . . . Not a Facility

NIMS Command and Coordination

- On-Scene Command
- Coordination Resource Centers
- Dispatch
- Coordination Entities/Groups
- Emergency Operations Centers
Interconnectivity of NIMS Command and Coordination

On-Scene Multiagency Coordination

Incident Command/Unified Command

Liaison Officer

As incident grows and transitions, coordination moves off-scene

Incident Command/Unified Command

Requests and Information

Support and Coordination

Off-Scene EOCs and/or MAC Groups

Dispatch Centers

Jurisdictional EOCs*

MAC Groups

DOCs
Review of the Senior Official’s Role

In most jurisdictions the Senior Official is responsible for:

- Ensuring the safety of the citizens and protection of property
- Ensuring the continuity of government
- Activating specific legal authorities (disaster declarations, evacuations, state of emergency, or other protective actions)
- Delegating Authority for Incident Command to an IC/ UC
- Coordinating with the PIO to keep the media and public informed
- Requesting assistance from State agencies through the EOC
- Resolving any resource allocation conflicts
- Coordinating with other Sr. Officials & whole community partners
- Participating in a Multiagency Coordination Group (MAC)
Objectives Review

• What is the purpose of a Multiagency Coordination Group?
• What is the purpose of a Joint Information System?
• How are the NIMS Command and Coordination systems interconnected?