

Information Paper

SUBJECT: Support to Civilian Law Enforcement

1. **PURPOSE:** To provide commanders with information on responding to requests from civilian law enforcement agencies for the use of military assets.

2. **FACTS:**

a. Several units have received requests from off-post civilian law enforcement agencies (LEAs) for equipment and personnel to assist in law enforcement activities.

b. Active duty military personnel may only assist civilian LEAs in certain, limited situations.

c. DoD Directive 5525.5 (15 January 1986) regulates the use of Army personnel and equipment for civilian law enforcement. If it does not adversely affect mission readiness or national security, Army installations may provide equipment and facilities to LEAs for law enforcement purposes subject to paragraph d below. Army personnel may, in some instances, train, provide expert advice, or operate loaned equipment.

d. Army personnel and equipment may be used to assist LEAs when such action is taken to further a military or foreign affairs function of the United States. Such actions include: enforcement of the UCMJ, protection of classified material, protection of DOD personnel, facilities, and guests, and actions taken to protect a military installation or facility

e. Requests for support that do not further a military function should be avoided. Such actions include: using military intelligence personnel to trail civilian drug dealers, use of military working dogs and handlers to track civilian suspects, or the use of MPs to “raid” a suspected off-post drug den. If these activities are not related to a military purpose, e.g., enforcement of the UCMJ, then they are not proper support missions.

3. Units receiving requests to support civilian LEAs should contact the Military Law & Ethics Division, at 4-7414/4668.

Chief, Military Law & Ethics Division