



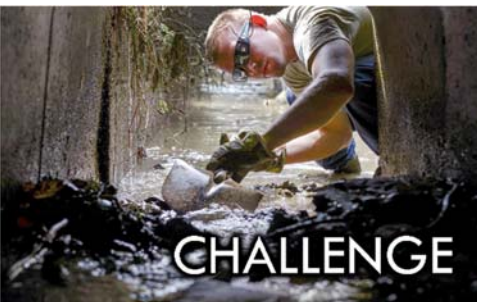
# DEFENSE SUPPORT TO STABILIZATION

## OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE FOR POLICY

APRIL 2018



As the 2017 National Security Strategy makes clear, the United States faces an increasingly complex international landscape in which competitors sow instability, creating fertile ground for violent extremists and great-power adversaries to expand their influence at our expense. Given this reality, the United States has a vital national security interest in promoting stability in certain fragile and conflict-affected states in order to guard against threats that emanate from state weakness, political subversion, or collapse. The Department of State (DOS), the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), and the Department of Defense define stabilization as a **political endeavor involving an integrated civilian-military process to create conditions where locally legitimate authorities and systems can manage conflict peacefully and prevent a resurgence of violence**. Stabilization activities are necessary to consolidate military gains into lasting strategic success, and may include efforts to establish civil security, provide access to dispute resolution mechanisms, deliver targeted basic services, and establish a foundation for the voluntary return of displaced people. These activities are separate from, but complementary to, humanitarian assistance.



DOS and USAID lead U.S. Government stabilization efforts. However, in fragile, hostile, or conflict-affected areas, civilian personnel often lack direct access to oversee and implement stabilization activities. On the other hand, although DoD has access to less-permissive areas, DoD has limited stabilization expertise and extremely limited global authority to conduct transitional, small-scale stabilization activities directly or in conjunction with interagency counterparts and authorized U.S. military operations. Similarly, DoD has only limited authority to provide non-reimbursable logistic support, supplies, and services, and training to interagency counterparts for stabilization activities in these complex settings. To address these challenges to civilian-military integration, the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy is advancing a comprehensive **stabilization policy, authority, and program**. Once implemented, these initiatives will improve DoD's ability to prioritize, plan, and execute stabilization activities with interagency partners – supporting the 2018 National Defense Strategy objective of “enabling U.S. interagency counterparts to advance U.S. influence and national security interests.”



DoD's new stabilization policy provides a conceptual framework for DoD's supporting role and core responsibilities during U.S. stabilization efforts. The policy, a revision of DoD Directive 3000.05 (Stabilization), establishes a process to implement stabilization activities in concert with other U.S. Government departments and agencies. It clarifies DoD's core responsibilities during stabilization as security, basic public order, and the immediate needs of the population. Finally, the policy emphasizes small-footprint, partner-focused stabilization activities that work by, with, and through indigenous and other external partners.





In order to implement DoD's new stabilization policy, the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy submitted a Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 legislative proposal that would authorize the Secretary of Defense, with the concurrence of the Secretary of State and in consultation with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development and the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, to provide logistic support, supplies, and services, and training, for the stabilization activities of other Federal agencies, and to do so on either a reimbursable or non-reimbursable basis. The proposal would also authorize the Secretary of Defense to carry out transitional stabilization activities

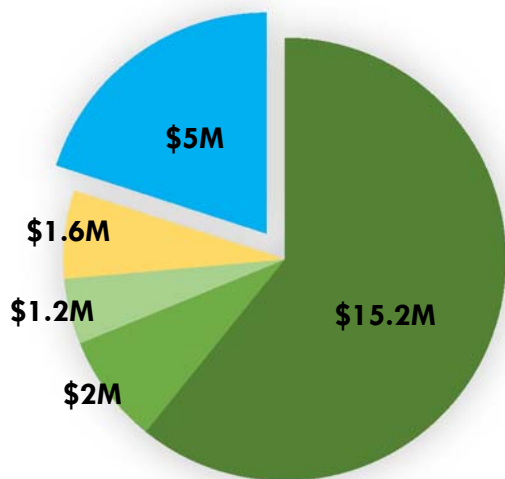
in designated foreign areas that are in the national security interest of the United States.



If the proposed FY 2019 legislation is enacted, DoD will establish a Defense Support to Stabilization (DSS) program and program office at the Defense Security Cooperation Agency (DSCA). In conjunction with the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Stability and Humanitarian Affairs, the DSS program office will provide guidance for designing, implementing, monitoring, and evaluating DoD's stabilization activities. The \$25 million FY 2019 DSS program would take advantage of existing interagency mechanisms and information technology infrastructure to ensure efficient and effective program execution. The program office would support geographic combatant commands (GCC) and serve

as a one-stop shop for stabilization resources and information. The DSS program would prioritize transitional, small-scale stabilization activities and support in less-permissive operational environments where interagency efforts are restricted and there is a U.S. national security interest to promote stability. The DSS program would be informed by priorities and analysis promulgated through the National Security Council's Fragile States and Stabilization Policy Coordinating Committee. Although stabilization priorities may change based on emergent operational realities, initial FY 2019 priority countries may include Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Philippines, Somalia, Syria, and Yemen. DoD will develop an annual report to consolidate information regarding GCC stabilization activities.

For additional information, please contact [osd.pentagon.ousd-policy.list.pkso@mail.mil](mailto:osd.pentagon.ousd-policy.list.pkso@mail.mil)



- GCC planned, interagency-coordinated, small-scale stabilization activities
- Emergent operational stabilization requirements
- GCC stabilization planning, interagency synchronization, assesment, monitoring, evaluation
- DSCA Program Management including personnel, travel, administrative support, and information systems
- Non-reimbursable logistic support, supplies, services, and training to other federal agencies

### FY 2019 DSS Program and non-reimbursable interagency support

