

## PROGRAMS: DISASTER HOUSING APPENDIX B

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### **Assistance available to Military Personnel & Civilian Employees.**

(Guidance should be provided to NPSC Call Center and Processing Center, Community Relations, Public Information, and Disaster Recovery Center staff)

The **Military Personnel and Civilian Employees' Claims Act** (MPCEC) provides grants of up to \$40,000 for uninsured personal property loss (including vehicles), food loss, certain medical expenses, as well as an insurance deductible. Needs exceeding the \$40,000 maximum may be authorized at their Washington DC Headquarters. This is generally available only to personnel residing on base. However, regardless of residence, losses occurring on-base or at an authorized location and incident to service are eligible. The location of the property, rather than the location of the residence, is the determining factor in eligibility for MPCEC.

The **Safe Haven Program** provides temporary housing to both on-base and off-base personnel where Base Civil Engineers determine the dwelling to be uninhabitable. This program will pay per diem for up to 180 days for family members.

**Evacuation Entitlements** cover expenses (normally a 3-day limit) for lodging and food if evacuation was necessary. This assistance is available to both civilian and military personnel.

**Military Aid** is available to all military personnel and is not restricted to losses due to natural disasters. This includes 0% interest loans for necessities such as food, gasoline, automobile repairs, medical costs and lodging. NOTE: lodging provided is typically in the form of billeting on base. Loan max. is \$1,500.

The Staff Judge Advocate in the legal office of the military installation is the point-of-contact for military assistance. He/She is responsible for designating a Base Claims Officer.

Contact the Base Claims Officer to determine if the MPCEC and the Safe Haven Program are being provided to off-base personnel. For off-base personnel, a list of names (including spouse/co-apps) with the address and SS# of those assisted may be needed to check DOB with FEMA/IFG assistance. For on-base personnel, DOB may be checked by R-listing the base address/zip code with the damaged dwelling address/zip code plus any assistance provided.

Also determine if the Evacuation Entitlement is being extended beyond 3 days. To minimize the possibility for DOB with FEMA transient assistance, encourage the Base Claims Officer to require original receipts for lodging reimbursement. A list of names/SS#, etc. of recipients may also be needed to check DOB.

Military Aid (Air Force Aid, Army Aid, etc.) for off-base lodging does not constitute a DOB as it is a loan program and is repaid.

Recipients of military assistance are cautioned not to register with FEMA. Accepting duplicate assistance has been known to result in court-martial. Where a DOB is identified, that case should be referred to the OIG and the Base Claims Officer.

(January, 1996 - G. Keen)

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