

Report Assesses DoD-DHS Cooperation

In October 2012 the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report assessing cooperation efforts between the Departments of Defense (DoD) and Homeland Security (DHS). The report, GAO-13-128, provides an overview of DoD involvement with DHS in the event of major disasters or emergencies, and examines the extent to which DoD has issued current guidance, including doctrine, policy, and strategy, for its homeland defense and civil support missions.

In preparation of the report, GAO met with select DoD and National Guard officials and analyzed DoD homeland defense and civil support guidance. GAO also reviewed previous reports and other relevant documentation.

In the report, GAO identified and addressed the impacts of gaps in DoD's Strategy for Homeland Defense and Civil Support and gaps within the dual-status commander construct and domestic cyber.

GAO-13-128 makes many recommendations to address these gaps, including DoD assessing and updating its primary strategy; developing implementation guidance on the dual-status commander construct; and aligning guidance on preparing for and responding to domestic cyber incidents with national-level guidance to include roles and responsibilities. **IAJ**

USAID Details Multi-Agency Efforts Against Gender-Based Violence

In August 2012, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) released the United States Strategy to Prevent and Respond to Gender-Based Violence Globally. The strategy was developed with input from the White House and the Departments of State, Treasury, Defense, Justice, Labor, Health and Human Services, and Homeland Security, as well as from the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, the Peace Corps, and other agencies and organizations. The purpose of the strategy is to establish a government-wide approach that identifies, coordinates, integrates, and leverages current efforts and resources in preventing and responding to gender-based violence (GBV) around the world.

The strategy has four objectives: to increase coordination of GBV prevention and response efforts among U.S. government agencies and with other stakeholders; to enhance integration of GBV prevention and response efforts into existing U.S. government work; to improve collection, analysis, and use of data and research to enhance GBV response efforts; to enhance or expand U.S. government programming that addresses GBV.

The strategy builds on an existing foundation that includes the U.S. National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security; the Interagency Task Force to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons; and other GBV efforts. The strategy also provides federal agencies with a set of concrete goals and actions to be implemented and monitored over the course of the next three years with an evaluation of progress midway through this period. At the end of the three years, the agencies will evaluate progress and chart a course forward. **IAJ**