

<i>Country Overview</i>	
[China]	
<i>Legislative framework for armed forces' use for civil protection</i>	<p>Regulations on Military Participation in Emergency Rescue and Disaster Relief (2005) Emergency Response Law of the People's Republic of China (2007) White Paper on the Diversified Employment of China's Armed Forces (2013)</p> <p>The first one states that “to perform the task of disaster rescue as authorized by the state is an important mission of the army”. China's armed forces are composed of the People's Liberation Army (PLA), the People's Armed Police Force (PAPF) and the militia. Stated in the white paper, the PAPF and the militia are tasked with the border public security, firefighting, emergency rescue and disaster relief operations. Thus, the two branches are often called upon by civilian authorities during natural disasters or extreme weather events.</p>
<i>Key civilian authority/ies</i>	<p>China National Committee for Disaster Reduction (NCDR) Office of the Leading Group of the Army for Handling Emergencies</p> <p>NCDR is headed by a Vice Premier of the State Council. It is composed of 34 ministries and departments, including relevant military agencies and social groups. It functions as an inter-agency coordination body under the State Council, which is responsible for studying and formulating principles, policies and plans for disaster reduction, coordinating major disaster activities, giving guidance to local governments in their disaster reduction work, and promoting international exchanges and cooperation.</p>
<i>Armed forces branch(es) primarily involved</i>	<p>The People's Armed Police Force (PAPF) and militia</p>
<i>Cases of use / Good practices</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National & international healthcare support, including Covid-19 response operations After the President Xi's declaration of “war” against COVID-19 in February 2020, operation was launched involving all branched of the Chinese Armed Forces. They used military facilities such as armoured vehicle and aircraft to transport supplies from different places of the country to the lockdown areas, and dispatched troops to build epidemic prevention infrastructure, e.g., makeshift hospitals. Military doctors are also organized to the front to participate in the treatment of patients. Internationally, China has used military aircrafts to send COVID-19 vaccines and other supplies to foreign countries (Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Ethiopia, etc.) during the pandemic. • Fire-fighting operations The fire-fighting work in China was carried out by the fire brigade of the Chinese People's Armed Police Force (PAPF) until 2018. China's military system underwent a restructuring, and the firefighters no longer belonged to the PAPF, but to the Ministry of Emergency Management. Historically, PAPF participated in all major fire accidents, such as the Xi'an explosion in 1998, the fire fighting in Hengyang in 2003, and the 2015 Tianjin port explosion accident. • Earthquake Rescue operations China has an Earthquake Rescue Team which is mainly composed of military personnel. This professional team has traveled abroad many times to participate in earthquake relief operations in other countries. The national military forces were also deployed during the 2008 Wenchuan earthquake (involved around 11,308 soldier) and the 2013 Ya'an Earthquake. • Other natural disaster response and management In recent years, floods have occurred in many places in China. National military forces were deployed in the flood relief work, e.g., 2021 He'nan floods, 2020 Jiangxi flood and 2020 Hubei flood. Internationally, the Chinese military were called upon to provide relief supplies to Tonga after the volcanic eruption in 2022.

<p><i>Follow-up questions / concerns</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will training and rescue facilities be different after firefighters no longer belong to the military due to the reform in 2018? • What about training within the military and between the military and civilian authorities? • At what stage and by whom are the troops called in for civil protection tasks? • What is the hierarchy and standard operating procedures between civilian and military authorities in civil protection operations?
<p><i>Bibliography</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://www.gov.cn/zwgk/2005-06/24/content_9347.htm • http://www.gov.cn/flfg/2007-08/30/content_732593.htm • http://www.gov.cn/jrzq//2008-01/31/content_875621.htm • https://www.mfa.gov.cn/ce/ceus//chn/xnyfgk/t404719.htm • http://www.gov.cn/ztlz/kzjz/content_982158.htm • http://www.mod.gov.cn/action/node_46959.htm?yikikata=7593b488-b6effe51db7af88cb201164b3c68d30a&yikikata=df5f3a84-3d7f57ac635c55a72f216e032593163e • http://www.gov.cn/jrzq/2013-04/16/content_2379013.htm • http://www.scio.gov.cn/zfbps/ndhf/2013/Document/1312843/1312843_1.htm 	

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