

Country Overview	
Russia	
<i>Legislative framework for armed forces' use for civil protection</i>	<p>Federal Law of the Russian Federation (1998, as amended in 2021) on Civil Defense</p> <p>The 1998 Federal Law of the Russian Federation, as amended in 2021, articulates the role the military can play for civil defence, which includes but is not limited to: evacuations, life-saving activities, firefighting, or carrying out rescue missions.</p>
<i>Key civilian authority/ies</i>	<p>Ministry for Civil Defense, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters (EMERCOM)</p> <p>The “organization of activities related to response to emergencies, protection of the population and territories against emergencies and fires, as well as carrying out of humanitarian response operations” is one of the tasks of the Ministry for Civil Defence, Emergencies and Elimination of Consequences of Natural Disasters, also known as EMERCOM.</p>
<i>Armed forces branch(es) primarily involved</i>	<p>Ministry of Defense / Russian Armed Forces</p> <p>The Russian Ministry of Defense (MOD) also actively engages in responding to large-scale disasters such as floods, wildfires or man-made hazards. It is important to note that there has long been a strong connection between the two government ministries, EMERCOM and MOD. Notably, the current Russian Minister of Defence, Sergey Shoygu, previously served as Minister of Emergency Situations from 1991 until 2012 and, although not part of the armed forces, the EMERCOM ranking structure uses the same hierarchy.</p>
<i>Cases of use / Good practices</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental disaster mitigation and response According to the official information provided on the Russian Ministry of Defense website, EMERCOM’s tasks involve, among others, “prevention of environmental disasters and other emergencies, as well as the elimination of their consequences.” • Fire-fighting operations In July 2021, the Russian Armed Forces were assisting EMERCOM in the region of Yakutia in Siberia with fighting large-scale forest fires covering more than 800,000 hectares. A specialized aviation unit was created to that end by the Ministry of Defense consisting of Mi-8 helicopters and Il-76 water-dropping aircraft of the Russian Aerospace Forces. • Covid-19 mitigation and response The Covid-19 response has become another area where the Russian Armed Forces have played a significant role. Special and medical units of the MOD were involved in solving most of the logistical problems related to civilian medical services in different regions. Military support for the medical response has covered all types of assistance. This included the construction of semi-permanent and mobile Covid-19 hospitals, deployment of field hospitals in remote and inaccessible areas, establishment of mobile testing facilities and vaccination centres, and the opening of military sanatoriums for post-Covid rehabilitation. Additionally, there was the prominent use of military teams for the disinfection of public spaces.
<i>Follow-up questions / concerns</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is the hierarchy and standard operating procedures between civilian and military authorities in civil protection operations? Do they have regular joint training sessions? • Who pays for the civil protection activities of the military? We note that the resources of EMERCOM are limited, with its 2020 budget amounting only to around 10% of that of the MOD. • Are there any concerns about bringing the military into civilian activities? How does the public perceive the role of the military in civilian-related affairs? • Is there cross border cooperation with other countries’ military and civilian authorities for civil protection operations? • If there is cross border cooperation, to what extent, if any, could this be used as an instrument of military diplomacy / confidence building? What are the geopolitical consequences?

Indicative Bibliography

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