

CHAPTER I – INTRODUCTION

I. General

- A. Repatriation is the procedure whereby citizens are officially processed back into the United States after their evacuation from overseas. The Secretary of the United States Department of Health and Human Services, in coordination with the heads of Federal departments and agencies is responsible for providing assistance to American citizens or others evacuated from overseas areas. This assistance will also include noncombatants of the United States Department of Defense. **Their plan relies on State and local government to carry out the operational responsibilities of repatriation.**
- B. The Florida Department of Children and Families is the State agency designated by the United States Department of Health and Human Services to administer the United States Repatriate program.
- C. To establish a Repatriation Processing Center, the United States Department of Health and Human Services and the United States Department of Defense, may task the State of Florida to process evacuees from overseas locations.
- D. Overseas evacuations occur under a variety of circumstances – war, civil unrest, military uprisings, environmental concerns, and natural disasters. Based on the situation, the United States Department of State may authorize a voluntary departure or may order the departure of federal employees and their families. In the authorized/ordered departure statement, the United States Department of State will designate a particular country, normally the continental United States, as the safe haven for federal employees. The United States Department of State may have only a few or many noncombatants located in the endangered country.
- E. The departure of private citizens is at their own discretion; however, most will take advantage of the protection and transportation available at the time it is provided by the United States Department of State. The United States Department of State may also approve the evacuation of selected host nation and Third Country Nationals. When CONUS is declared the safe haven, American citizens will be repatriated back into the United States. American citizens and designated aliens will be brought to safety, and are responsible for reimbursing the United States Department of State for transportation costs incurred in their behalf.
- F. Florida has three (3) designated Ports of Debarkation. The bases and installations designated with primary responsibilities will be the lead agent, and those designated as backup and assist, as well as the United States Department of Health and Human Services / the United States Department of State agency support teams, will provide needed support to the repatriation operation. Most often evacuees will be brought out by

air transport. However, in the event naval transport is used, naval ports have been designated as well. Evacuees may come in through international airports. In case of the latter, installations/bases have been designated to provide processing support at either the commercial airports or their own facilities. For planning purposes evacuees will arrive every four hours on one wide bodied jet. Approximately 300-350 evacuees will arrive per aircraft. The workload for a 24-hour period will be 2100- 2200 evacuees per day.

AIRFIELDS

MacDill AFB, FL

BACKUP AND ASSIST

Mayport Naval Base, FL

NAVAL SPOD

Mayport Naval Base, FL

BACKUP AND ASSIST

MacDill, AFB, FL

INTERNATIONAL

Tampa Int'l Airport, FL

PRIMARY INSTALLATION/BASE

MacDill, AFB, FL

- G. Although the evacuation of pets with families is not authorized by Federal Regulations, past experience has shown that evacuees will bring pets with them. Therefore, repatriation centers and intermediate processing/staging areas must be prepared to take care of pets. Families are financially responsible for moving their pets to and from the theater. Transportation of pets at government expense is not an entitlement.
- H. Each evacuee is entitled to bring one bag, the weight of which should not exceed sixty-six pounds.
- I. Medical evacuation will normally be through aero-medical channels.
- J. The United States Department of State may request the United States Department of Health and Human Services to assume responsibility for all repatriation operations, including the United States Department of Defense noncombatants, after operations have commenced. In this case, the United States Department of Health and Human Services plans and orders take precedence over those of the United States Department of Defense. However, the United States Department of Defense will still be responsible for ensuring that all United States Department of Defense families are properly cared for and receive their entitlements.
- K. The United States Department of Health and Human Services will then make a request that the State of Florida establish and manage a Repatriation Processing Center.

II. Purpose and Scope

The purpose of this Annex is to provide the organizational framework for the coordination of the emergency repatriation of United States citizens and selected foreign nationals by federal, State, and local government agencies as well as

private and volunteer organizations. In addition, the purpose is to provide procedures and necessary services that will expedite the reception, processing, onward travel, and short or long-term care for the emergency returnees.

The scope of this Annex is providing for the reception, temporary care onward transportation to final destination, and follow-up assistance for United States non-combatant evacuees to the State of Florida in an emergency situation. This Annex is applicable to the State Emergency Response Team, counties, and entities identified as having a support role in the execution of this Annex.

III. Assumptions

- A. That a threat of general war will not exist at the time this Annex is implemented.
- B. That the implementation of this Annex and activation of a State run Repatriation Processing Center will be contingent on military activity.
- C. That the evacuation of noncombatant evacuees has been authorized/ordered by the United States Secretary of State.
- D. That the scale of operations would involve evacuees from only one or two foreign nations while American citizens could be evacuated to the continental United States.
- E. That while returning evacuees may arrive at military and civilian ports of debarkation, the primary mode of transportation will be the United States Transportation Command controlled airlift (either military or civilian charter). It is anticipated that limited use will be made of sea transport.
- F. That State operated Repatriation Processing Centers may be required to process the United States Department of Defense personnel and in cases where such personnel are evacuees.
- G. That the Governor of the State of Florida will be notified by the United States Department of Health and Human Services between 48 hours and one week before activating this Annex.
- H. That the United States Department of Defense will provide staff to process the United States Department of Defense personnel at the Repatriation Processing Centers, however other military support, at the point of arrival, may not be available.
- I. That the United States Department of Defense will provide 10 computers, software and training to support evacuee in-processing at all State operated Repatriation Processing Centers.
- J. That no advance of federal funds will be made to the State before the beginning of the operation.

- K. That evacuees will arrive in the United States with little or no money or possessions. Some will arrive with pets.
- L. That large numbers of media personnel will be on-site.
- M. That the State may have to declare a State of Emergency.
- N. That an operation may run 24 hours a day.
- O. That the United States Department of Health and Human Services will provide oversight at State operated Repatriation Processing Center.
- P. That the United States Department of Health and Human Services will provide for the financial needs of non-DoD evacuees.
- Q. That the United States Department of Health and Human Services will reimburse the State of Florida for all expenses incurred in Repatriation Processing activity.
- R. That the United States will provide consulate personnel to coordinate Third Country National issues.
- S. That evacuees may speak languages other than English.