



Fact Sheet

Joint Force Headquarters-National Capital Region
The U.S. Army Military District of Washington



Guardian of the Nation's Capital

Joint Force Headquarters: Safeguarding the National Capital Region

Joint Force Headquarters – National Capital Region stood up in 2004 under U.S. Northern Command as an integrated force to make the nation's capital a “hard target.”

USNORTHCOM is responsible for land homeland defense and civil support operations throughout the North American continent. JFHQ-NCR is its subordinate for safeguarding the nation's capital.

Located at Fort Lesley J. McNair, Washington, D.C., JFHQ-NCR is responsible for:

- Land-based homeland defense
- Defense support to civil authorities
- Incident management in the national capital region.

Fashioned from the core assets of the U.S. Army Military District of Washington, JFHQ-NCR was augmented by a significant number of joint billets. Its focus is on the entire NCR, an area totaling approximately 2,500 square miles and encompassing six counties, four cities in Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia.

JFHQ-NCR comprises five local military services:

- US. Army Military District of Washington
- Naval District Washington
- US Marine Corps National Capital Region
- US Air Force District of Washington
- US Coast Guard Fifth District

Due to geographic proximity, assets of these commands might be looked to for military support in any emergency response, but support would not be necessarily so limited. The National Guards of the District and surrounding states might well respond first or in addition. Also, besides the local installations and units, and National Guard, each military service has unique skills and capabilities, all of which are available to USNORTHCOM. Through the JFHQ-NCR, these assets could be brought in for homeland defense or civil support needs.

Day to day, JFHQ-NCR is part of a team of local and federal agencies that plans, coordinates and maintains situational awareness in the National Capital Region.

It aligns the military's resources so that, when called upon to stand up as the Joint Task Force National Capital Region, it can integrate them effectively in a coordinated response.

The unique cross-governmental relationships it has built by "leading from the middle" drew recognition in 2007 from the Harvard University School of Government's "Innovations in American Government" program. Indeed, JFHQ-NCR has accomplished what no other Department of Defense entity has ever done: established itself in a regional interagency community as an integral partner in combined homeland security efforts.

Through outreach initiatives big and small, the command has developed a planning and exercise regimen that is a model for the nation. These efforts have materially and favorably impacted the strategic objective of securing the NCR against the adverse consequences of a terrorist attack or natural disaster.

Besides providing special capabilities to aid and sustain civil authorities in natural and manmade emergencies that overtax their ability to respond, JTF-NCR status is turned to for National Special Security Events, integrating with the Department of Homeland Security and the Secret Service to complete the defensive posture for the nation's capital and leadership. JTF-NCR also directed the military's role in the state funeral for President Gerald R. Ford.

JFHQ-NCR extends and sustains homeland defense efforts of the lead federal agency by integrating all military capability required in an emergency. It will facilitate requests for military assistance from its local partners and will receive, stage, move onward and integrate into a coordinated response those additional units.