

**SUBJECT:** Highways for National Defense (HND) Program

**ISSUE:** To provide pertinent information related to the Highways for National Defense (HND) Program

**The HND Program identifies and integrates defense public highway needs into civil policies, plans, and programs and establishes guidelines for DoW's use of public highways. The HND Program has a two-way directive to ensure that the nation's public highways can support military requirements and to ensure that DoW is utilizing the public highways in a manner not to endanger themselves or the civilian population.**

**DISCUSSION:**

- Title 32 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 193 establishes the regulatory authority for the HND Program. DoD Directive 4510.11, *DoD Transportation Engineering* assigns management of the HND Program to the Combatant Commander, USTRANSCOM. DoD Manual 4510.12, *DoD Transportation Engineering Program*, further clarifies the HND Program and its functions. The referenced regulations clearly define DoW programs for ensuring the fulfillment of DoW public highway needs by public highway agencies and ensures DoW utilizes public highways in a safe and prudent manner.
- Federal-aid highway program funds are provided to the States by a set apportionment formula. In order to better access these funding sources, it is beholden upon the installation to work with the State and local transportation authorities to identify highway related needs. The HND Program stresses that the highway owning authorities make funding and priority decisions. HND advocates and promotes the interaction of installation personnel with State and local transportation authorities by identifying applicable funding programs and lines of communications for the installations. Accordingly, many of the highway improvements specific to DoW needs are due to the success of the HND Program in coordination with transportation authorities at the lowest level.
- The HND Program works to identify routes important to national defense. At the national level, the Strategic Highway Network (STRAHNET) is the designated minimal public highway system serving the most important deployment needs of the DoW. STRAHNET includes nearly 62,400 miles of interstate and major highways. It also includes over 1,800 miles of STRAHNET Connectors which link over 200 important military installations with seaports and airports of embarkation (SPOEs/APOEs). STRAHNET provides state and federal transportation officials a tool for the consideration (reminder) of DoW highway needs in their project planning and programming operations. STRAHNET allows States to qualify for National Highway System funding as a result of being designated as STRAHNET. The STRAHNET includes a subset of public highways routes that are necessary for Power Projection Platform (PPP) deployments.
- An important subset of the STRAHNET is the PPP routes. These routes comprise of 5,000 miles of the most critical highway corridors that support the movement of DoW equipment from the 18 designated PPP installations to SPOEs during national emergencies. With support from Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), HND has initiated a series of studies to assess the adequacy of the PPP routes. These studies are identifying infrastructure deficiencies and

concerns that may impact the military's ability to rapidly deploy DoW equipment. The findings of these studies can be used to guide and influence both federal and state investment in highway infrastructure.

- The HND Program works closely with FHWA and other highway related organizations to develop and establish national highway policy that benefits and addresses DoW needs on public highways. HND also works with FHWA during the development of their multi-year authorization language and provides significant comments on proposed legislation.