

Dec 07

INFORMATION PAPER

SUBJECT: Defense Access Road (DAR) Program

1. Purpose. To provide DAR Program background information.

2. Facts.

a. The DAR Program is authorized by United States Code, Title 23, "Highways," Section 210 (23 USC 210).

b. State/local highway authorities are responsible for developing and maintaining highways to all permanent traffic generators, including defense installations.

c. The DAR Program is the method for the Department of Defense (DOD) to pay for public highway improvements required as a result of sudden/unusual, DOD-generated traffic impacts. The improvements are of a nature that they are not anticipated or programmed in the regular highway programs.

d. Commander, Military Surface Deployment and Distribution Command (SDDCC), Department of the Army, is responsible for DAR Program execution for DOD. As such, she/he determines project eligibility for the DAR Program and certifies roads as important to national defense, per 23 USC 210.

e. The DAR Program is co-administered by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for the Department of Transportation. Projects are constructed by public highway authorities through the FHWA's normal Federal-aid highway procedures, using DAR funds.

f. Highways may become eligible for the DAR Program when the required improvements are a result of:

(1) Doubling of public highway traffic over a short duration (within 2 years) due to establishment of a new installation, installation expansion, establishment of a new gate/entrance.

(2) New mission requiring heavy and damaging vehicle traffic on low-grade roads.

(3) Closing public highways permanently due to military necessity.

g. Installation commanders are responsible for bringing expected highway deficiencies, resulting from installation impacts, to the attention of the owning highway authorities. If the civil highway agencies cannot or will not correct the deficiencies, the installation commander will submit appropriate information through military service channels to SDDC for DAR eligibility determination.

h. The Military Services program and budget the funds in their Military Construction (MILCON) Programs for DAR projects that are determined eligible by SDDC. The U.S. Army Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management, the Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, and the Air Force Deputy Chief of Staff for Installations and Logistics are responsible for defending their respective service's MILCON projects. All DAR project funds are authorized and appropriated by Congress.

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