

Special Session of the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction

8 February 2007, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Commerce Building Room 5803

Summary of Discussion

The SDR Leadership and team leads for the Grand Challenges Implementation plans met to address OMB's comments about the four-page documents, including:

- Four-pages appear to be a laundry list of activities reflecting no prioritization
- Don't understand short-term, mid-term, and long-term – appears to indicate urgency rather than prioritization
- Interested in knowing which agencies are involved in which activity

Dr. Gene Whitney and Dr. David Applegate lead the discussion by reviewing OMB's request and the revisions that have already been made to the plans in response. Copies of the plans were distributed to all attendees, which included indexes which indicated lead and supporting agencies for all implementation actions described in the plans.

Several key points were raised during the ensuing discussion:

- Concerns were raised that “Prioritized Interagency Implementation Actions” on page two of the 4-pagers might lead to confusion that the Grand Challenges are listed in priority order. It was recommended that this be changed to “Priority Interagency Implementation Actions”.
- There is confusion as to whether the implementation actions described in the 4-pagers are “actions” or “deliverables”. Do the “short”, “medium” and “long” term timeframes indicate when the actions should be addressed, or when they should be completed?
- Questions were also raised as to whether the indexes should indicate “lead” and “supporting” agencies or is there a more appropriate terminology which can be applied? Suggested alternatives included “principle” and “contributing” or “primary” and “secondary”.
- What exactly does “lead agency” entail? It was agreed that the designation of a lead agency should be based on mission interest and does not necessarily indicate primary responsibility for a particular action. Lead agencies will also serve as a point of contact.
- On some actions there is not a clear mandate for one particular agency to take the lead and responsibility may be shared.

Guidance from the meeting will be relayed back to all hazard teams by their team leads. Hazard teams will meet again to review the plans and indexes and to designate lead agencies by February 23rd.

Any hazard teams requesting new graphics for their four pagers should submit high resolution, U.S. Government owned images to images to Emily Wallace (ewallace@grs-solutions.com). Please do not submit privately owned images.