

Meeting Minutes of the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction

4 October 2007, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., New Executive Office Building Room 5213

Italics indicate absent members. "T" indicate members participating via teleconference.

Officers

David Applegate (USGS), Chair
Margaret Davidson (NOAA), Vice-Chair

NSTC Liaison

Gene Whitney (OSTP)

Working Group Chairs

International Working Group
Ralph Braibanti (State), Chair

Infrastructure Task Group

Joy Pauschke (NSF), Chair

Earth Observations Working Group

Steve Ambrose (NASA), Co-Chair
Tim Battista (NOAA), Co-Chair
Bruce Quirk (USGS), Co-Chair

Resource Impacts Task Group

Susan Conard (USFS), Chair

Designated Representatives

BLM Ronald Huntsinger
CDC Mark Keim
DHS *Bruce Davis*
DHS/FEMA *David Maurstad*
DHS/USCG *Suzanne Strohl*
DOD *Al Johnson*
DOE *Patricia Hoffman*
DOT Sheila Duwadi
EOP / OSTP Gene Whitney

EPA *Peter Jutro*
HUD *David Engel*
NASA Steve Ambrose
NGB *Daniel Bochicchio*
NIH Allen Dearry (T)
NIST *Jack Hayes*
Noel Raufaste
NOAA *Margaret Davidson*
NSF *Joy Pauschke*

OPHS Sven Rodenbeck (T)
State *Ralph Braibanti*
Fernando Echavarria
USACE *Barbara J. Sotirin*
USAID *Peter Morris*
USDA / USFS *Susan Conard*
USGS David Applegate
Paula Gori

Other Attendees

DOE Debbie Haught
NSF Bob O'Connor
Dennis Wenger
FEMA Mike Buckley

NOAA Nell Codner
Secretariat Allison Kilcourse
Emily Wallace

Agenda

10:00 Welcome and
Introductions
10:03 Approval of September
Meeting Minutes
10:05 Report from the Chair
10:25 Report from the NSTC
Liaison
10:45 Presentation-Human
Vulnerability Mapping Tool
(V-Map)
11:30 Close and Next Actions

Handouts

- Agenda
- September Meeting Minutes
- GAO Highlights
- Disaster Roundtable Workshop
Agenda

I. Call to Order

Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction (SDR) Chair Dr. David Applegate (USGS) called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

II. Summary of Discussion

A. Report from the Vice Chair

Dr. Applegate began by informing the group of his meeting with Glenn Mitterman and Marc Gordon of International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) who were in town to meet with the World Bank. They have agreed to brief the SDR this winter on the demo Prevention Web. Dennis Wenger (NSF) mentioned the ISDR's Scientific Advisory Panel and wanted to know more about the approval and setup. Dr. Applegate will request further information on this matter.

The Government Accounting Office (GAO) has released its report on Natural Hazard Mitigation and Dr. Applegate will look into having them brief the SDR in the near future. The report (which focuses heavily on the Federal Emergency Management Agency) was commissioned by the U.S. Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban affairs. Dr. Applegate suggested that SDR members review the report and.

Next, Dr. Applegate thanked those SDR members who have taken the time to review the Climate Change Science Program's (CCSP) Synthesis and Assessment Reports (SAPs) on behalf of the entire group. Dr. Whitney concurred and thanked the member for their collaborative effort on the SAPs. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) are currently reviewing SAP 3.3 "Weather and Climate Extremes in a Changing Climate". On December 20, 2007, Dr. Margaret Davidson (NOAA) will brief the CCSP and Dr. Whitney will be in attendance.

Finally, Dr. Applegate briefed the group on the meeting of the Western States Seismic Policy Council (WSSPC) and the International Code Council (ICC) he recently attended in Reno, Nevada. He was impressed with Dr. Robert Meyer, of the Wharton School, and would like him to brief the SDR at an upcoming meeting.

B. Report from the NSTC Liaison

Dr. Gene Whitney (OSTP) began by offering to attend any briefings SDR members may be providing the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) for the remainder of this budget season. He has also provided the OMB with comments on the Grand Challenge Implementation Plans and hopes they will be released in the near future.

C. Discussion about Disasters Roundtable Topics

The next National Academies of Science (NAS) Disasters Roundtable event, focusing on recovery, will take place October 17, 2007. Dr. Applegate asked the group for topic suggestions for the spring 2008 workshop.

Dr. Susan Cutter (University of South Carolina) suggested to Margaret Davidson that there would be value in holding a Roundtable on standard post-disaster loss estimates.

Ms. Sheila Duwadi (DOT) suggested a topic on infrastructure and disasters.

Dr. Bob O'Connor (NSF) suggested a topic on intergovernmental relations (Federal, State, and local) and how they affect coordination before, during, and after a disaster. Ms. Paula Gori (USGS) added that successful and unsuccessful partnership case studies would be useful in illustrating the

importance of intergovernmental relations. Mr. Mike Buckley (FEMA) informed the group that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) could make available models of their cooperation with State and local governments on grant programs.

Dr. Nathalie Valette-Silver (NOAA) suggested a topic on the effect of natural hazards on ecosystems and the subsequent economic consequences. Dr. Whitney stated that this topic would have a lot of crossover with the climate change community. Dr. Applegate added that the issue of disaster-buffering could be worked into this topic.

Next, the group expressed a desire to read the National Research Council (NRC) report, *Improving Disaster Management: The Role of IT in Mitigation, Preparedness, Response, and Recovery* (which can be found at http://books.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=11824). The report examines technology advances that cut across hazards. Dr. Laska (DHS) informed the SDR that the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Science and Technology division has advances that are making big differences in infrastructure and information technology. Dr. Whitney requested that a representative from the DHS (possibly Dr. Laska) brief the SDR on these science and technology advances at the December 4th SDR meeting.

Dr. Whitney expressed the need for greater discussion on the linkages between disaster and climate change. If the NAS does not want to sponsor a roundtable event on the topic, he suggested that the SDR sponsor a workshop on the subject. As an interagency group, it would be beneficial for SDR to inform people of the state of hazard science by sponsoring this type of workshop. Dr. Valette-Silver mentioned that the CCSP SAP 3.3 "Weather and Climate Extremes in a Changing Climate" touches on the uncertainty of hazard science.

Dr. Allen Dearry (NIH) informed the group that the CCSP is producing a new strategic plan and is in talks over what to do next with the NAS. He suggested that this could be an opportunity for the SDR to provide input and possibly influence the future direction of the CCSP.

Dr. Mark Keim (CDC) informed the group that he is authoring an article on the public health implication of climate change for the American Journal of Public Medicine. The journal will be published in early 2008.

III. Presentations

A. Centers for Disease Control, "Mapping Public Health Vulnerability (V-MAP)" – Dr. Mark Keim

Dr. Mark Keim (CDC) briefed the SDR on new CDC software that aims to mitigate loss of life from natural disasters by mapping public health vulnerability. The key to public health and safety during a disaster is prevention. Certain population groups (i.e. children, the elderly, the disabled, the poor) are more vulnerable to the effects of disasters than others. The best method of prevention is to know who and where the at-risk members of the population reside and to evacuate them before disaster strikes.

Using information from the U.S. Census Bureau and other means, the CDC has developed a software prototype that maps vulnerable populations to be used in an emergency situation. They have provided samples of this software to several State emergency management agencies for feedback. This State feedback would be part of a national conference on the software to be held at CDC headquarters sometime in 2008.

Dr. Steven Ambrose (NASA) questioned whether the data used infringed on any privacy laws. Dr. Keim answered that the information is legally obtained from U.S. Census Bureau open source data and several other organizations. However, he cautioned that this data can be unreliable in areas like New Orleans where disaster has disrupted the figures. Dr. Ambrose offered to put Dr. Keim in touch with the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) public health contact, John Haines, to discuss the possibility of satellites in V-MAPing.

Dr. Whitney inquired about the community response to the information they received from V-MAPing. Dr. Keim stated that there has been feedback on multiple levels. The program emphasizes risk reduction as opposed to response. Communities and individuals could better prepare themselves by organizing to create neighborhood watch programs and resilience plans. Local governments could help vulnerable segments of the populations by creating emergency situation resilience plans for them. During recovery, populations could learn how to rebuild with less vulnerability.

Any interested members may contact Dr. Keim (mark.keim@cdc.hhs.gov) for a sample of the V-MAP software.

V. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Future Meetings

The SDR meets on the first or second Thursday of every month from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. ET in the New Executive Office Building (contact the Secretariat to facilitate building entry):

December 6, 2007	March 6, 2008	July 3, 2008	November 6, 2008
January 10, 2008	April 3, 2008	August 7, 2008	December 4, 2008
February 7, 2008	May 3, 2008	September 4, 2008	
March 6, 2008	June 5, 2008	October 3, 20078	

VII. Agenda Items and Other Communications with the Subcommittee

Please send proposed agenda items and any other items intended for distribution to the full Subcommittee to Emily Wallace (ewallace@grs-solutions.com).

VIII. Contact Information SDR Leadership

David Applegate, Chair, 703-648-6715, applegate@usgs.gov
Margaret Davidson, Vice Chair, 843-740-1220, Margaret.davidson@noaa.gov
Gene Whitney, NSTC Liaison, 202-456-6081, gwhitney@ostp.eop.gov

International Working Group

Ralph Braibanti, Chair, 202-663-2330, braibantirl@state.gov

Earth Observations Working Group

Steve Ambrose, Co-Chair, 202-358-0851, sambrose@nasa.gov
Tim Battista, Co-Chair, 301-713-3028 x171, tim.battista@noaa.gov
Bruce Quirk, Co-Chair, 605-594-6040, quirk@usgs.gov

Secretariat

Emily Wallace, 703-560-7448, ewallace@grs-solutions.com

IX. Summary of September Actions

Action	Lead	By When
Volunteer to comment on the following Climate Change Science Program Synthesis and Assessment Products: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Abrupt Climate Change ▪ Coastal Elevation and Sea Level Rise ▪ Threshold Change and Ecosystems ▪ Transportation and Infrastructure 	SDR Members	26 October
Check the CCSF website for new SAPs available for comment	Secretariat	26 October
Request a GAO briefing the SDR future meeting	Secretariat	26 October
Obtain National Research Council report, <i>Improving Disaster Management: The Role of IT in Mitigation, Preparedness, Response, and Recovery</i>	Secretariat	26 October
Allocate time at the November or December meeting to discuss SDR's transition across Presidential administrations	SDR Leadership/Secretariat	26 October
Post meeting presentations on the SDR website	Secretariat	26 October
Contact Robert Meyer with the Wharton School about briefing the SDR in a future meeting	Secretariat	26 October