

Meeting Minutes of the Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction

13 July 2017, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., White House Conference Center Lincoln Room

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

Co-chairs

David Applegate (USGS)

Jack Meszaros (OSTP)

Designated Representatives

ASPR *Darrin Donato*

BLM *Georgette Fogle (T)*

CDC *Mollie Mahany*

DHS *Erin Walsh*

DHS/FEMA *Roy Wright*

DHS/USCG *Jim Small*

DOD *Al Johnson*

DOE *Patricia Hoffman*

DOT *Sheila Duwadi*

EOP/OMB *Michael Clark*

EOP/OSTP *Jack Meszaros*

EPA *Greg Sayles*

FERC *Marsha Palazzi*

HUD *Dana Bres*

NASA *Craig Dobson*

NGA *Kerri Dugan*

NGB *Steve Mason*

NIH *Aubrey Miller*

NIST *Steve Cauffman*

NOAA *Mary Erickson*

NPS *Marcy Rockman*

NSF *Greg Anderson*

State *Fernando Echavarria*

USACE *Tony Niles*

Dimitra Syriopoulou

USAID *Sezin Tokar*

USCB *Laura Furgione*

USDA *TBD*

USFS *Matt Rollins*

Carlos Rodriguez-Franco

USGS *David Applegate*

USNRC *Edwin Hackett*

USPHS *Estella Jones*

Other Attendees

DHS *Mitch Erickson (T)*

DHS/FEMA *Emily Blanton (T)*

Hampton H. Hart, Jr.

EPA *Brendan Doyle*

Ed Washburn (T)

NASA *Gerald Bawden (T)*

David Green

NCDMPH *Thomas Kirsch*

NGA *Ryan Mumford*

NGB *Chet Guyer*

NIH *Jed Bullock (T)*

NOAA *Adam Smith (T)*

NPS *Ann Hitchcock (T)*

NSF *Bob O'Connor*

USACE *Lauren Knapp*

USCB *Rob Sienkewicz*

USFS *Mike Cherry*

USGS *Kris Ludwig (T)*

Charlie Mandeville

Alice Pennaz

USNRC *John Nakoski*

STPI *Chris Clavin*

Rob Rozansky

SDR Secretariat

Bret Schothorst

Barbara Haines Parmele (T)

Agenda

10:00 Welcome, Introductions, and Approval of Minutes

10:05 Co-chairs Report

10:30 Presentation: National Center for Disaster Medicine and
Public Health

11:15 Briefing: Overview of FEMA's National Exercise
Program

11:55 Close and Next Actions

Handouts

- July Meeting Agenda
- Draft June Meeting Minutes

I. Welcome and Introductions

National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction (SDR) Co-chair David Applegate (USGS) called the July meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. in the White House Conference Center Lincoln Room, and participants introduced themselves.

II. Report from the Co-chairs and Approval of Minutes

The draft of the minutes for the June monthly meeting was approved with no changes.

Applegate noted that the SDR held a session on July 10 at the Natural Hazards Center's 42nd Annual Workshop in Broomfield, Colorado. Discussion topics at the session included an overview of the SDR as well as recent activities and reports of its task forces and working groups. Panelists included: Mollie Mahany (CDC), Co-chair of the SDR International Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group, who covered background and U.S. implementation of the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030* and outcomes from the recent UNISDR 2017 Global Platform Meeting; Marc Levitan (NIST), who discussed the work of the former SDR Windstorm Working Group and the current priorities of the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program (NWIRP) Strategic Plan; and Nick Shufro (FEMA), who described the goals of the Mitigation Framework Leadership Group (MitFLG) and the National Mitigation Investment Strategy (NMIS).

Steve Cauffman (NIST) mentioned that he also participated in a separate session at the workshop focused on the NIST *Community Resilience Planning Guide* as well as the Texas A&M University Resilience Scorecard—which is funded through the Department of Homeland Security Coastal Resilience Center of Excellence—to illustrate how communities can approach resilience planning and assessment. Panelists discussed how resilience planning guidance is developed and used in local communities and will explore rigorous approaches to researching and evaluating the progress made toward building community resilience. The link to NIST's main page on community resilience is located at: <https://www.nist.gov/topics/community-resilience>. The *Community Resilience Planning Guide*, *Economic Decision Guide*, and other supporting resources are all available on the site.

Applegate added that on Thursday, July 20, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine will host a workshop sponsored by the HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response on “Translating the Results of Hurricane Sandy Research Grants into Policy and Operations” at the National Academy of Sciences Building (2101 Constitution Avenue, NW) in Washington, DC. This workshop will bring together policy, operations, and research experts to explore the research findings of Sandy grant-funded projects and discuss opportunities for translating them to future preparedness and response efforts. More information on registering to attend can be found at: <https://goo.gl/m8Xqeo>. SDR members may access the private registration platform with this password: SandyGrants2017.

Adam Smith (NOAA) passed along that the NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) released its mid-year update on the U.S. “Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters” effort, which data will be a key contributor to the U.S. reporting process on the UNISDR Sendai Framework indicators. The NCEI update is available at: <https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/billions/>. According to the update, in 2017 (as of July 7), there have been 9 weather and climate disaster events with losses exceeding \$1 billion each across the U.S. These events included 2 flooding events, 1 freeze event, and 6 severe storm events. Overall, these events resulted in the deaths of 57 people and had significant economic effects on the areas impacted.

Sezin Tokar (USAID), Co-chair of the SDR International Disaster Risk Reduction (IDRR) Working Group, shared that the working group would meet that afternoon. Discussion items included: 1) outcomes from the UN Office of Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) 2017 Global Platform Meeting that

occurred May 24-26 in Cancun, Mexico; 2) a summary of the July 10 SDR-themed session at the Natural Hazards Center Annual Workshop; 3) planning an upcoming meeting in the fall with UNISDR to learn about the reporting process for the Sendai Framework indicators; and 4) review of the draft agenda for the "Disaster Risk Reduction Across the Americas: A Regional Summit on the Contribution of Earth Observations" to be held September 4-8 in Buenos Aires, Argentina (see next item). The Global Platform Chair's Summary and Cancun High-Level Communique are available at: <http://www.unisdr.org/conferences/2017/globalplatform/en> and a video of the official U.S. statement is online at: <http://www.unisdr.org/conferences/2017/globalplatform/en/programme/statements>.

David Green (NASA) reminded SDR members about the "Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Across the Americas: A Regional Summit on the Contributions of Earth Observations" event that NASA and Argentina's space agency (CONAE) are hosting in Buenos Aires, Argentina, September 3-8, 2017. The overarching goal of the workshop is to discuss how earth observations (EO) can be used to address the Sendai Framework goals in the Americas and to strengthen ties between the emergency management entities and the S&T community in the region. The Summit will provide a unique opportunity for joint dialogue and work planning between representatives of the scientific EO and DRR communities, including stakeholders in regional preparedness and planning, disaster mitigation, emergency response, and recovery. It will be preceded by three weeks of online webinar training sessions in August. Using the UNISDR Sendai Framework—which calls for an increased role for science and technology in all stages of DRR—as an impetus, countries are now recognizing the intrinsic value that EO data, information products, and decision support tools can add by improving readiness and actions through all phases of disaster management. Green noted that these topics were also addressed at an Ambassador-level meeting organized by NASA (on behalf of AmeriGEOSS) at the Costa Rican Embassy in Washington, DC, earlier this year. SDR members were encouraged to please contact Green (david.s.green@nasa.gov) or Fernando Echavarría with State (echavarríafr@state.gov) for more information on this Summit and to provide a point of contact for their agency's participation in planning the event.

SDR Co-chair Jack Meszaros (OSTP) shared details on initial planning for a collaborative, joint Federal "Show and Tell" meeting this fall (likely in September) between the SDR Technology and Innovation for Disaster Preparedness (TIDP) Working Group and the recently formed ad hoc SDR Predictive Analytics for Preparedness (PAP) Working Group to showcase tools and data related to hurricane preparedness. More information on this activity will be shared in the coming weeks. If your agency would like to participate in planning the "Show and Tell" meeting, please email Meszaros (Jacqueline_R_Meszaros@ostp.eop.gov). On the White House news front, she also highlighted that the National Security Council (NSC) has formed a sub-Interagency Policy Committee (IPC) aimed at revisiting the National Preparedness System policies and procedures.

III. Presentation: National Center for Disaster Medicine and Public Health

Applegate introduced Thomas Kirsch, Professor and Director of the National Center for Disaster Medicine and Public Health (NCDMPH) at the Uniformed Services University, who provided a presentation of background information on the NCDMPH as well as a rundown of the National Center's recent accomplishments and current key projects.

The NCDMPH is both an academic and government organization uniquely positioned as the Nation's academic center of excellence, leading domestic and international disaster health education and research efforts. In collaboration with partners from both Federal and non-governmental sectors, it creates and translates science and education to improve the Nation's disaster health readiness through education and science. Its newly refocused strategic plan outlines a series of goals and priorities over the next few years that would reposition the National Center to meet its mission. These include identifying partner's needs for collaborative projects, conducting strategic analysis of Federal disaster training and science,

strengthening collaboration with academic partners, analyzing regional healthcare system preparedness, and leading Federal disaster education and science efforts.

Kirsch also highlighted several of the National Center's recent activities and ongoing efforts, including facilitating a "National Academic Disaster Center Federal Partner Meeting" at the most recent Natural Hazards Center Annual Workshop. The meeting hosted 43 academic centers engaged in disaster research and teaching along with 17 Federal employees representing 8 agencies and offices to host preliminary discussions on developing a national, overarching disaster science agenda. The NCDMPH will also host an upcoming "Crisis Leadership in Disasters Symposium" in conjunction with Harvard and Emory Universities on Thursday, September 7, at the Uniformed Services University in Bethesda, Maryland.

To learn more and to register for this no-cost symposium, SDR members were encouraged to please visit: <https://ncdmph.usuhs.edu>. For more information on his presentation, please contact Kirsch (thomas.kirsch@usuhs.edu).

IV. Briefing: Overview of FEMA's National Exercise Program

Meszaros introduced Hampton H. Hart, Jr., Deputy Director of FEMA's National Exercise Division, who provided an overview of the National Exercise Program (NEP) including upcoming interagency exercise activities for the 2017-2018 cycle.

The National Preparedness Goal and National Preparedness System provide a systematic approach for identifying preparedness challenges to help set priorities and close gaps. The NEP builds upon other components of the National Preparedness System by examining and validating core capabilities across all preparedness mission areas (Prevention, Protection, Mitigation, Response, and Recovery) and provides a means to assess the ability to build, sustain, and deliver core capabilities of national focus, validate plans, training, and equipment, draw out resource gaps, and identify areas for improvement.

The NEP conducts exercises on a two-year cycle, and the Principals' Objectives for the most recent 2017-2018 cycle include (in no particular order): 1) Intelligence and information sharing; 2) Lead Federal agency coordination; 3) Multidisciplinary response operations; 4) Cyber coordination; 5) Recovery coordination; 6) Infectious disease and biological incidents; and 7) Catastrophic incidents. The capstone event of the cycle is the National Level Exercise; the next one is taking place in 2018 and is hurricane-based with the name Atlantic Fury. Looking further ahead, Hart mentioned that the initial concept meeting for NLE 2020 will be held on August 10, 2017. The meeting is being held earlier than in previous years to expand the planning timeline. Send an email to nle@fema.dhs.gov if your agency would like to participate.

Hart also discussed the development of a pre-packaged exercise toolkit that includes ready-to-use materials and templates to assist exercise planners at all levels of government to develop tabletop exercises aligned to the NEP 2017-2018 cycle's Principals' Objectives. These materials are currently in the pilot phase, after which they will be made available to whole community. Hart encouraged SDR department and agency representatives to connect up with their agency's designated NEP points of contact (attached) to ensure awareness of S&T capabilities that could be brought to bear. He also encouraged agencies to determine if they have exercises that align with one or more of the Principals' Objectives. Such exercises can be nominated for inclusion in the NEP via a nomination form under "Ways to Participate" at: <https://www.fema.gov/national-exercise-program>.

As SDR considers how best to engage with the NEP, members were asked to please provide the SDR Secretariat (Bret.Schothorst@mantech.com) with suggestions for S&T capabilities that could potentially be tested as part of the upcoming Atlantic Fury exercise. Any additional questions about the briefing can be directed to Hart (Hampton.Hart@fema.dhs.gov).

V. Adjournment

Applegate adjourned the SDR July meeting at 11:58 a.m. and noted that the Subcommittee’s next meeting will be held on Thursday, September 7, in the White House Conference Center Lincoln Room. Please note that per longstanding tradition the SDR will not hold a monthly meeting in August.

VI. SDR 2017 Meeting Calendar

SDR meetings in 2017 will be held from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. on the dates listed below in the Lincoln Room of the White House Conference Center unless otherwise noted:

2017

- ✓ Thursday, January 5
- ✓ Thursday, February 2
- ✓ Thursday, March 2
- ✓ Thursday, April 6
- ✓ Thursday, May 4
- ✓ Thursday, June 1
- ✓ Thursday, July 13*
- ✓ Thursday, August 3**
- ✓ Thursday, September 7
- ✓ Thursday, October 5
- ✓ Thursday, November 2
- ✓ Thursday, December 7

* July meeting shifted to the second Thursday of the month to avoid proximity to the Independence Day Federal holiday.

** August meeting subject to cancellation.

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 the SDR Secretariat (bret.schothorst@mantech.com).

VIII. Contact Information

SDR Leadership

David Applegate	Co-chair	703-648-6600	applegate@usgs.gov
Jack Meszaros	Co-chair	202-456-6020	Jacqueline_R_Meszaros@ostp.eop.gov

Executive Secretariat

Bret Schothorst	703-388-0312	bret.schothorst@mantech.com
Barbara Haines-Parmeale	703-388-0309	barbara.haines-parmeale@mantech.com

IX. Summary of July Actions

Action	Lead	By When
The next SDR meeting will be held on Thursday, July 13 in the White House Conference Center Lincoln Room. The July meeting has been moved to the second Thursday of the month to avoid proximity to the Independence Day holiday.	SDR Members	For Information

Contact Jack Meszaros (Jacqueline_R_Meszaros@ostp.eop.gov) for more information on items included in the OSTP Co-chair update.	SDR Members and Federal Colleagues	Standing
Send suggestions of new content or features for SDR.gov to the SDR Secretariat (bret.schothorst@mantech.com).	SDR Members	Standing
Mark calendars for an SDR-themed session at the Natural Hazards Center 42nd Annual Workshop on Monday, July 10, in Broomfield, Colorado: https://hazards.colorado.edu/workshop/2017/schedule .	SDR Members and Federal Colleagues	ASAP
Email Aubrey Miller (miller.aubrey@nih.gov) with any questions on the session at the Natural Hazards Center Annual Workshop that will bring together the directors of hazards and disaster centers.	SDR Members and Federal Colleagues	ASAP
Reach out to Gerry Bell (gerry.bell@noaa.gov) for more information on his 2017 hurricane season outlook briefing.	SDR Members and Federal Colleagues	Standing
An ENSO blog highlighting more information on the summer climate and heat outlooks can be found at: https://www.climate.gov/news-features/department/enso-blog .	SDR Members and Federal Colleagues	Standing
Contact Mike Cherry (mcherry@fs.fed.us) with any questions on his 2017 wildfire season outlook briefing.	SDR Members and Federal Colleagues	Standing
Provide a short summary of any major changes in agency hazards-related S&T spending as outlined in the recently enacted fiscal year (FY) 2017 omnibus appropriations bill and in the President's just-released FY 2018 request to the SDR Secretariat (bret.schothorst@mantech.com).	SDR Members	Standing
Send additional disaster-related priorities from your agency for consideration in the new Administration to the SDR Secretariat (Bret.Schothorst@ManTech.com) on a rolling basis.	SDR Members	Standing
Send Dave Applegate an email (applegate@usgs.gov) if you are interested in contributing to the work of the SDR and would like additional documentation or an agency-specific letter.	SDR Members	Standing
Email the SDR Secretariat (bret.schothorst@mantech.com) to suggest external DRR stakeholder groups to invite to present at quarterly SDR meetings on behalf of the U.S. National Platform for UNISDR.	SDR Members	Standing