

National Science & Technology Council Subcommittee on Disaster Reduction (SDR)

SDR discussion on lessons learned
from recent hurricanes on S&T
coordination and knowledge gaps

October 5, 2017



Task Force on National Preparedness S&T

- Completed report on promising opportunities for S&T for disaster preparedness and reduction, released Dec. 2016.
- Additional task focused on engagement of S&T after disasters to support response and learn for future events:
 - Effective mechanisms for using scientific advice in support of disaster-response decisions (such as including science advisors as part of unified command and devising more Mission Assignments to enable scientific data gathering).
 - Why it is important for scientists to have access to disaster situations in order to conduct research; lays out some of the conditions that need to be in place in order for the best research to get done by scientists who understand how to not interfere with response and recovery.

Mechanisms for integrating S&T in disasters

- Discuss: What determines which S&T information products get used? How do products come into awareness? Who requests them?
- Discuss: Some agencies mobilized specialized S&T advice or reachback units. Why, who requested, how did it go?
- Discuss: Building relationships and familiarity in advance is always cited as a critical need. What lessons did we learn on this topic in these events?

Science-related mission assignments

- Discuss: What S&T-related MAs happened? What MAs do you *wish* would have happened? Did we learn anything that makes us think we should create a Pre-Scripted Mission Assignment in a specific area not covered now?

S&T needs for recovery and key considerations for rebuilding

- Discuss: What mechanism should SDR be putting in place now to support this phase going forward.