



## Mount Weather Emergency Operations Center

The Mount Weather Emergency Operations Center (MWEOC) is a Department of Homeland Security facility, situated on 564 acres high in the Blue Ridge Mountains, approximately 64 miles west of Washington, D.C.

Known simply as “Mt. Weather.” During the early 1900s, the site was originally acquired by the National Weather Bureau to launch weather balloons and kites for upper air research. After World War I, Calvin Coolidge reportedly talked about constructing a summer White House at Mount Weather. Over the years, ownership transferred to the U.S. Bureau of Mines, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Office of Emergency Preparedness, the General Services Administration, and in 1979 to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), upon its creation. Today, MWEOC provide FEMA and other government agencies space for offices, operations and storage and is a hub of our nation’s emergency response activity.

### Mount Weather’s Assets include:

- Office and warehouse space
- Dormitory and training rooms
- Café that seats over 280 personnel
- Fully equipped fire department and emergency medical unit with ambulance service operated and staffed by FEMA Firefighters
- Health unit
- Federal police force providing 24-hour, seven-day a-week security
- Motor pool

### Benefits and Next Steps

The MWEOC mission is to manage, operate and maintain the Mount Weather Emergency Operations Center to support FEMA and other federal departments’ and agencies’ emergency management programs at all times and under all conditions. The MWEOC provides facilities, logistics support, communications, operations centers and supporting personnel for a wide variety of vital government functions. The breadth and depth of capabilities offered by Mount Weather make it a unique facility.

The MWEOC supports a variety of disaster response and continuity missions, mostly classified. The Center is engaged in a massive infrastructure upgrade and has enacted its five-year Master Plan for demolition of old buildings and construction of modern facilities to support 21<sup>st</sup> century technology and federal department and agency continuity requirements.

Updated April 2014

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***“FEMA’s mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.”***