

REGION 2 BI-WEEKLY

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REGIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE MEETS IN P.R.



This week, Region II held a meeting of its Regional Interagency Steering Committee (RISC) in San Juan, Puerto Rico, bringing together representatives from several federal agencies and representatives from the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands.

The RISC meeting was attended by Regional Administrator Lynn Canton, Deputy Regional Administrator Michael Moriarty (above, left to right), Response Operations Division Director and RISC Chairman Dug Salley, Caribbean Area Division Director Alejandro De La Campa, and state emergency managers from New York, New Jersey and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The meeting focused on readiness and response planning, and ways to improve working relationships among state, territorial and federal partners. About 150 people attended.

During the meeting, participants discussed State Update Reports, ESF Reports, Unified Incident Command and Decision Support Project, Inte-

gration of the Incident Management Assistance Teams, and upcoming RII Continuity Training and Exercise.

RA Canton empathized that FEMA is not THE TEAM but rather one component of a team, working together with its partners and other federal agencies are in response and recovery efforts. She highlighted the importance of Catastrophic Planning, saying that during an event, we must act Big, Fast and Early.

The group agreed to the creation of working groups to address Catastrophic Planning in the Region, as well as the development of Inter Agency Agreements (IAAs) to integrate FEMA IMAT resources with those of other federal agencies.

The next RISC meeting, which will focus on Science and Technology, is scheduled for New York at the end of the summer.

Also at the table: US EPA, USCE; DOD, HUD and U.S. Coast Guard.

NATO TAPS DeLaCampa

FACES OF THE REGION

The Caribbean Area Division's Director, Alejandro De La Campa, is one of two FEMA staffers selected by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) for their emergency management expertise. De La Campa was named a civil expert in the area of risk assessment under the direction of NATO's Civil Protection Committee.

Two years ago, the Civil Protection Committee put out a call for civil experts. FEMA identified over 20 well-qualified candidates, whose applications were added to a larger pool of applications from other NATO countries.

Recently, NATO selected two applicants from FEMA: DeLaCampa and Randal Hecht from Region IV. DeLaCampa's broad experience in disaster preparedness, response and recovery clinched the deal for the much sought-after position. He will serve as a civil expert in the area of risk assessment and analysis. Hecht will serve as a civil expert in the area of WMD consequence management, particularly response to chemical incidents.

DeLaCampa may be called to provide assistance from his office at the CAD, or to travel to NATO headquarters in Brussels, or elsewhere, to complete a mission.



Alex DeLaCampa welcomes attendees to the RISC meeting in Puerto Rico this week.



Héctor González joined FEMA in 1998 as a Local Hire for the Public Assistance (PA) Program, becoming a DAE in March the following year.

Hector has worked in 15 declared disasters, including the 9-11 World Trade Center Terrorist Attack (NYC, 2001), Hurricanes Katrina and Rita (New Orleans, 2005), Hurricane Ike (Houston, 2008), and most recently, the CAPECO explosion (Puerto Rico, 2009).

Héctor became a PFT as an Emergency Management Grant Specialist for the Public Assistance Program in November 2008.

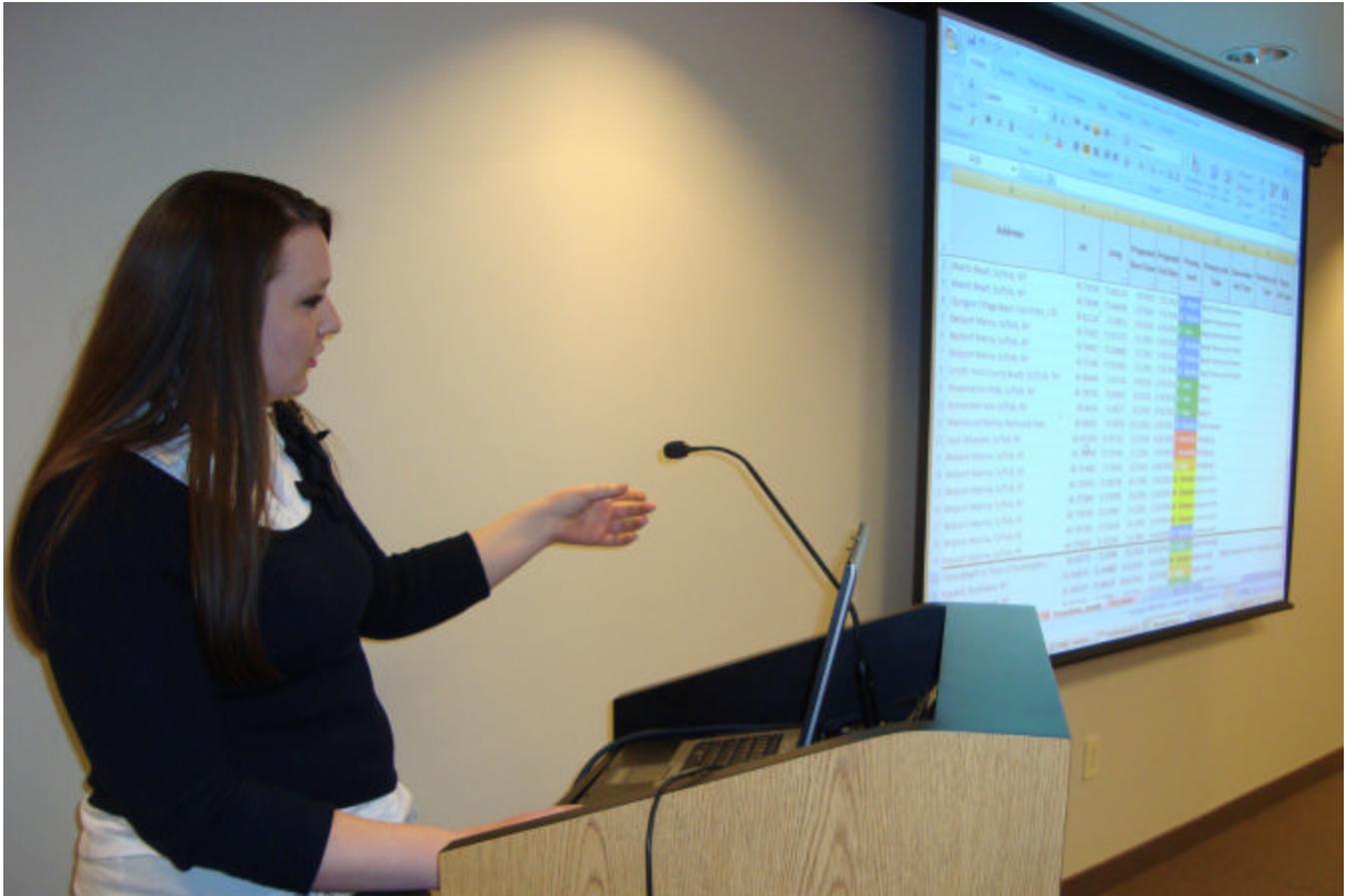
Looking back, González remembers the constant travel as one of the things he loved best about being a DAE. "That was definitely a major benefit. But foremost among the things I appreciate about FEMA is the solid relationships I have developed with my coworkers," Hector says. "Since day one, everyone was very nice to me and, 11 years later, it's still the same way."

As the Deputy Public Assistance Supervisor at the Caribbean Area Division, González provides technical assistance and eligibility guidance associated with disaster declarations in the closeout phase, including project's revisions, closeout inspections, and deadline extensions requests, among others.

Héctor has a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering.

During his free time, he enjoys playing tennis, volleyball, softball and basketball, as well as other outdoor activities like kayaking, snowboarding and scuba diving. Hector also enjoys travelling, photography and spending time with family and friends.

KEEPING TRACK



Imagine walking into a JFO, and being able to get an instant overview of all open, relevant FEMA Public Assistance projects from past and current disasters – including similar USACE projects, and those being undertaken by private contractors.... Now imagine that all these projects are color-coded by priority. While a picture may be worth a thousand words, this type of spreadsheet speaks volumes.

DR-1869 Planning Chief Margaret “Lizzie” Casper (above) created just such a database for ongoing and planned projects along Long Island’s shores. Using Excel, a common computer program, she entered map coordinates for each project. Then she linked this database to Google Earth, another readily available program, to measure distances between projects.

Lizzie’s spreadsheet is called “Operation: Economy of Force” as it creates a picture of projects that were either ongoing or planned for the shore areas of Suffolk County and Nassau County, and offers a way of linking projects both geographically and by the type of equipment they require. Her goal was

to economize on time and costs by coordinating operations.

The initiative was prompted by an inquiry by Rep. Tim Bishop (R-NY1), who wanted to insure both the efficient use of public funds and speedy recovery efforts along the south shore of Long Island.

“I love it,” says FCO Albert “Albie” Lewis. “It gives us all an overview of the work ahead of us and a very efficient roadmap of how to manage our resources to get it done.”

Lewis christened the innovative spreadsheet the ‘Economy of Force’ in a nod to his extensive military background and experience as the state Emergency Manager in Vermont.

CALLING ALL DAES:

Many Region II DAES have completed their Credentialing Migration Report (MR1), many have not...

To clarify: *ALL* training and deployments will ultimately be tied to credentialing. Those who submitted their packets will be first up for training, and first up for deployments. Those who haven’t will be listed as TRAIN-EES in ADD, and deployed as such. ***Let self-interest be your guide.***

If you did not receive a packet, contact Dan Hetlage at 202-646-3019 or via email:

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