



Media Release

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First USACE District to Achieve National Emergency Management Accreditation

LEXINGTON, KY – The Huntington District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) achieves full accreditation today by the Emergency Management Accreditation Program (EMAP). This is the first federal agency to achieve EMAP Accreditation.

"The partnership between EMAP and USACE was created with the common goal of ensuring all emergency management programs are prepared in the highest of standards. This accreditation achievement is a distinguished celebration as the USACE Huntington District becomes the first federal agency to receive this status. As we further solidify a commitment to expose USACE to the EMAP assessment process, we look forward to advancing accreditation to more districts." LTC Jerome Hatfield, Deputy Superintendent of Homeland Security for New Jersey State Police and Chair for the EMAP Commission.

EMAP and USACE have been working collaboratively over the past few years to encourage USACE Divisions and Districts to participate in the EMAP Pilot Program and now the EMAP Accreditation process. In maintaining the USACE theme of "Going from Good to Great" the USACE Huntington District has utilized the *Emergency Management Standard* by EMAP and the accreditation process to truly make their Emergency Management Program great by achieving the national standard in emergency management.

Emergency management accreditation represents a significant achievement as a means of demonstrating, through program assessment, documentation and on-site assessment by an independent team, that a program meets national standards for their disaster preparedness and response systems. To achieve accreditation, emergency management programs document compliance with a set of nationally recognized standards used in the accreditation process and undergo a peer-review assessment by EMAP trained assessors. Accreditation is valid for five years from the date the EMAP Commission grants accreditation. Accredited programs must maintain compliance with EMAP standards and be reassessed in five years to maintain accredited status.

EMAP is a voluntary accreditation process for emergency management programs that coordinate preparedness and response activities for disasters based on national standards. The *Emergency Management Standard* by EMAP creates a structure for strategic planning for improvement coupled with methodical, verified assessment by experienced peers from other jurisdictions, which results in stronger capabilities and accountability. The EMAP process evaluates emergency management programs on compliance with requirements in 64 standards and 104 individual elements including: planning, resource management, training, exercises, evaluations and corrective actions, and communications and warning. This forms the foundation of the nation's emergency preparedness system. EMAP is the only accreditation process for emergency management programs.

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