



# Arkansas Prepared

SPRING 2012

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## Silver Jacket Team is now a reality!

The Arkansas Silver Jackets Team held their official team charter signing ceremony, Jan. 24. Their vision is to increase efficiency and coordination between the state and federal government in developing comprehensive and sustainable solutions to flood risk management for the State of Arkansas. Col. Jeffrey Eckstein, commander of the Corps' Vicksburg District, stated "As our budgets for everyone continue to get reduced, this kind of cooperation and communication framework that we've got here with the Silver Jackets, will help us see a lot of solutions out

there that we might not normally see without the teamwork and coordination."

Prior to the formal signing of the team charter, the Arkansas Silver Jackets team has been actively pursuing solutions to the state's flood risk issues. They are currently using resources from USACE, FEMA, Arkansas Natural Resources Commission, and USGS to analyze and document the April/May flood event of 2011 for the White, Black, Cache, and St. Francis rivers in Arkansas.



Signatories - (Left to Right) Randy Young (ANRC), David Maxwell (ADEM), Colonel Glen Masett (USACE Little Rock), Tony Robinson (FEMA), Lt. Colonel Daniel Hamilton (USACE Memphis), Colonel Jeffrey Eckstein (USACE Vicksburg not pictured)

# Tina Owens is New Deputy Director

Director David Maxwell has selected Tina Owens as the ADEM Deputy Director. Owens grew up in North Central Arkansas and graduated from Salem High School. After graduation she moved to Conway where she earned a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from the University of Central Arkansas in 1991. Her career in emergency management began in 1996 as the administrative assistant to the Plans & Operations Division. In 1999, Owens became a Planning Specialist and became the Preparedness Division Director in 2006. Within that

time she assisted in updating the State and County Emergency Operations Plans in coordination with state agency liaisons and local governments. She also coordinated the grants program for the Office for Domestic Preparedness (ODP), now the Department of Homeland Security, overseeing the receipt of more than \$110,000,000 for the State of Arkansas. Owens was promoted to the Administration Division Director in 2007 where she continued to work with the state liaisons as well as local county governments along with overseeing

the agency's State and Federal Budgets.

"I'm looking towards the future. Knowing that I have worked hands on with all of these programs that are near and dear to us all and knowing that this agency does good. This agency is vital to the citizens of Arkansas and we are constantly working to prevent as much as we can from happening through the inevitable," Owens said.

Owens resides in Vilonia, Arkansas with her husband James and son Quinn.

# Mid-Year Conference is a Success



Chief Information Officer and Communications Division Director Ken Gibson makes a point at the 2012 Mid Year Conference.

The ADEM Mid-Year Conference was held in March at the Doubletree Hotel in Little Rock.

The conference opened with training on the topic of Resource Typing which took place on Monday, March 12. ADEM Director David Maxwell opened the conference on Tuesday afternoon by giving the welcome. He was followed by Administration Division Director Tina Owens and her staff who reported on grant requirements, the planning matrix, exercises and an update on SAR. Federal Surplus Division Director Arthur Woods briefed the conference on FSP.

After a break, Disaster Management Division Director Scott Bass briefed the attendees on PDA Procedures, Call Center and Capabilities Based Requests.

A panel discussion along with a question and answer session opened the conference on Wednesday morning. Preparedness Division Director Sheila Annable followed with a presentation, while Chief Communications Officer and IT Division Director Ken Gibson concluded the session with updates on Narrow Banding, IPAWS, RACES, and the agency's mobile command vehicle, Daisy Mae. After the adjournment, ADEM Fire Services Coordinator Kendall Snyder presided over the Fire Services meeting.

## State EM Coordinator of the Year

John C. Luther, Washington County Emergency Management Coordinator, is the current State Emergency Management Coordinator of the Year. Luther received the 2011 Plaque at the Arkansas Emergency Management Conference, held last fall at Hot Springs.

Luther is a lifelong resident of Washington County who resides in the Savoy community. He has been director of Washington County Department of Emergency Manage-

ment and 911 Operations since 2000. He currently serves on the following boards: Arkansas Wireless Information Network Executive Council; Arkansas Emergency Telephone Service 911 Board; Arkansas Homeland Security Advisory Group; Arkansas Emergency Management Association Board; Arkansas Search and Rescue Committee; AEMA; and NW AR Task Force 1.

He began his career with the Weddington Fire Department in 1986 as Firefighter/1<sup>st</sup> Responder and is still active

with the department.

He and his wife Ginny have two children, Claire, nine and Nathan, three.

Area Coordinators of the Year were also recognized at the conference including Central, Rick Ezell of North Little Rock; Northeast, Shane Dallas of St. Francis County; Southwest, James Barnes of Lafayette County; Southeast, Mike Morgan, Chicot County; and Northwest, Luther.

## Happy Retirement

Sylvia Hardy recently retired from ADEM after many years of service. During her tenure at ADEM, Sylvia worked in the CSEEP Program and in the Planning and Operations Division, but she spent over 12 years in Disaster Management helping many people overcome loss and destruction and start a new life. The Disaster Management Division would like to wish Sylvia Hardy a very Happy Retirement.



## Arkansas CCP a ‘Champion of Change’

Arkansas Department of Emergency Management (ADEM) Deputy Branch Chief for Homeland Security Chad Stover was one of 17 local leaders honored at the White House as a “Champion of Change.” These men and women have demonstrated significant innovation and creativity in working to get their communities ready for the unexpected. They have also embraced the approach of involving all members of their communities in emergency preparedness and response efforts.

Stover also serves as the State Citizen Corps Coordinator at ADEM. He manages the agency’s

community preparedness efforts through the Ready Arkansas program. Stover’s volunteer activities include the Hugh O’Brian Youth Leadership (HOBY), a development organization where he held senior volunteer positions from 1998 to 2008. He also worked with groups throughout Arkansas to increase community emergency preparedness and speaks frequently at community meetings, churches and civic groups.

The “Champions of Change” program was created as a part of President Obama’s “Winning the Future” initiative. Each week, a

different issue is highlighted and groups of Champions ranging from educators to community leaders are recognized for the work they are doing to better their communities.

“This past year we were reminded that disasters can strike at any time and that preparedness is critical,” said Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano. “We commend the innovative practices and achievements that these individuals bring to the field of emergency management in order to make our communities safer, stronger, and better prepared.”



Pictured are left to right, NEMA President Jim Mullen; IAEM Region 3 President Kathleen Henning; Chad Stover; FEMA Deputy Administrator, Tim Manning; and FEMA Region VI Administrator Tony Russell.

## Lt. Gov. Mark Darr visits ADEM



Lt. Gov. Mark Darr visits with ADEM Director David Maxwell on a recent tour of the agency.

## First Joe Halsey Award Presented



The Joe Halsey award is a technical award given each year by the Arkansas Emergency Management Association to people showing exceptional accomplishments in radios and telecommunications.

Joe worked for the agency for 17 years and knew more about telecommunications in the agency than anyone. He played a major role in the rollout of AWIN as well as keeping things running smoothly around the agency daily. Ken Gibson said, "He was a quirky guy, easy to rile. He was loved by everyone within this agency and other state agencies." His attitude for getting the job done no matter what and getting it right the first time was admired by everyone he knew. "Everyone loved to be around him and work with him," Gibson said.

Last August, the first Joe Halsey Award was given to Bobby King, the Deputy Coordinator for Garland County.

Joe Halsey (left) and Daniel Bailey on a Blackhawk Helicopter flight in 2008.

## NEMA Congressional Award



National Emergency Management Association (NEMA) presented West Virginia Sen. Jay Rockefeller (second for left) with an award for his work on behalf of Public Safety Broadband. Pictured are, left to right, John Madden, Alaska Emergency Management Director, Sen. Rockefeller, Jimmy Gianato, West Virginia Management Director, Trina Sheets, NEMA Director, and Dave Maxwell, Arkansas Department of Emergency Management Director. The presentation was during NEMA's annual Mid-Year Conference recently in Washington, D.C.

## DMD Staff Attends Memphis Workshop

Director David Maxwell, along with the employees in the Disaster Management Division attended the National Disaster Recovery Framework – Stakeholder Engagement Workshop on March 8 at the University of Memphis.

The National Disaster Recovery Framework (NDRF) provides guidance, through a flexible and inclusive structure, that creates more support for disaster-impacted state, local and tribal

jurisdictions as they recover from disasters. The NDRF is designed to enable disaster recovery managers to operate in a unified and collaborative manner as they work to restore quality of life, rebuild infrastructure, and revitalize economic and environmental vitality after a disaster strikes.

The goal of the NDRF is to help build a *More Resilient Nation* – one in which indi-

viduals, communities and our economy can better withstand and rapidly recover from disasters. Created in line with the vision set forth in Presidential Policy Directive 8, the NDRF was developed as a result of significant stakeholder input and outreach in all ten FEMA Regions and major cities across the country.

This Seminar afforded stakeholders the opportunity to learn

more about the NDRF and also provided them the opportunity to discuss the NDRF through attendance in the interactive break-out sessions scheduled. Sessions examined the NDRF's six Recovery Support Functions (RSFs), their impact on future recovery operations and how organizations, communities and agencies might best interface and coordinate with RSF partners following large scale or catastrophic disasters.

# Former ADEM Director Bud Harper Remembered

(Compiled from various news accounts) A true public servant in every sense of the word, William R. “Bud” Harper, a former director of the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management under Gov. Mike Huckabee, as well as a former Sebastian County Judge, died Wednesday morning (Mar. 28). He was 81.

According to a Fort Smith Police Department report, “At approximately 11:50am, police responded to 10800 St. Anthony Court, reference a deceased male. Once officers arrived, they learned retired County Judge, William Raymond “Bud” Harper, had passed away from natural causes. Judge Harper had been out mowing his yard and collapsed. His wife found him shortly after he collapsed and called for EMS. Paramedics and First Responders responded to the location, but were unsuccessful at resuscitating him.

Judge Harper had been experiencing

some minor health complications lately. At this time, it is suspected Judge Harper passed away from a heart attack. He was 81 years old.”

Harper, who served for 16 years as Sebastian County Judge, became director of Arkansas’ emergency services in August of 1997, including Sept. 11, 2001. “Seeing the charred and scorched soil that held the remains of the hundreds of souls is indescribable. I could not hold back the tears. The reality of the horror and suffering touched my heart. May God forbid this ever happening again!” Harper noted. “I returned to our Emergency Operation Center with a determination that I would do everything within reason to prevent such an unthinkable thing from ever happening again.” After Mr. Harper left the ADEM position, he served on the Board of Trustees at Arkansas Tech University.

Harper was a 1957 graduate — bachelor’s degree in business administration

— of ATU and was inducted into the university’s Hall of Distinction in 1999.

In 1979 he began the first of two terms on the Sebastian County Quorum Court, and was elected to the post of County Judge in 1983.

“A lot of things people will never understand or know have Bud Harper’s footprint. But those who do, appreciate him. A lot of people knew him and knew what he did,” said Mat Pitsch, director of the Regional Intermodal Transportation Authority.

Funeral services for Mr. Harper were conducted Saturday, March 31, 2012 at St. Luke Lutheran Church in Fort Smith. Burial with military honors followed at Roselawn Cemetery. Memorials may be sent to St. Luke’s Lutheran Church, 5401 Free Ferry Church, Fort Smith, Ark. 72903 or to Arkansas Tech University, 1509 Boulder Avenue, Room 210, Russellville, Ark. 72801.

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## Keeping Arkansas Prepared