

New Book Looks Inside a U.S. Embassy

For anyone who has ever wanted to catch a glimpse of what goes on inside an embassy, but can't get past the marine guards, *Inside a U.S. Embassy: Diplomacy at Work* provides a window into the lives of U.S. diplomats, Foreign Service Officers, and their families. The book's first-hand accounts come from a variety of sources, from large embassies to small consulates, from Algiers to Zagreb. Whether helping stranded American's return home or negotiating international agreements, the people who make up the Foreign Service are vitally important to America. *Inside a U.S. Embassy* proves that the answer to the question "What's going on in there?" is "A heck of a lot." **IAJ**

Whole Community Approach to Emergency Management

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) published in December 2011 *A Whole Community Approach to Emergency Management* which presents a foundation for increasing individual preparedness and engaging with members of the community as vital partners in enhancing the resiliency and security of the nation through a "Whole Community" approach to emergency management. The booklet is intended to promote greater understanding of an approach that engages government at all levels with communities and individuals when responding to disaster and to provide a strategic framework to guide all members of the emergency management community as they determine how to integrate Whole Community concepts into their daily practices.

In preparing the document, FEMA is advancing the proposition that a community-centric approach for emergency management focused on strengthening and leveraging what works well in communities on a daily basis offers a more effective path to building societal security and resilience. By focusing on core elements of successful, connected, and committed communities, the agency believes emergency management can collectively achieve better outcomes in times of crisis, while enhancing the resilience of communities.

FEMA does not intend the document to be all-encompassing or focus on any specific phase of emergency management or level of government, nor offer specific, prescriptive actions that require communities or emergency managers to adopt certain protocols. Rather, it conveys an overview of core principles, key themes, and pathways for action that have been synthesized from a year-long national dialogue, led by FEMA, around practices already used in the field. While not a "how-to" document, it does provide a starting point for those learning about the approach or looking for ways to expand existing practices and to begin more operational-based discussions on further implementation of Whole Community principles. **IAJ**

Survey Reveals Necessity of Interagency Cooperation

According to a survey conducted by the Government Business Council and Booz Allen Hamilton released in December 2011, sixty-five percent of federal managers say budget pressures will increase the importance of interagency collaboration. The survey is a follow-up to a similar report conducted in 2010 evaluating progress towards increased interagency collaboration and how budget pressures may change foreign policy. It also explores the idea of "smart power" – the