

DoD to Set Up New Center for Interagency Information Sharing

The Department of Defense announced in September that it will establish a new center to promote information sharing on space operations between the military and intelligence community. The Joint Interagency Combined Space Operations Center (JICSPOC) will involve the U.S. Strategic Command, Air Force Space Command, and the intelligence community, and will ensure data fusion among DoD, intelligence community, interagency, allied, and commercial space entities.

The new center will have the capability to develop, test, validate, and integrate new space system tactics, techniques, and procedures in support of both DoD and intelligence community space operations, and will improve the nation's ability to protect and defend critical national space infrastructure in an increasingly contested space environment.

DoD expects to begin operational experimentation and testing for JICSPOC in October. Completion of the initial experiments is expected by January 2017. Initial funding for the JICSPOC was provided by DoD and intelligence community stakeholders, and future budgets have yet to be decided.

JICSPOC will be located at Schriever Air Force Base in Colorado Springs, Colo. **IAJ**

FEMA Reports on Progress After Katrina

This August marked the tenth anniversary of the catastrophic 2005 Atlantic hurricane season that devastated the gulf coast region. On Aug. 29, 2005, Hurricane Katrina made landfall, followed shortly by Hurricanes Rita and Wilma in September and October. Ten years into the recovery and rebuilding efforts, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has outlined the progress made supporting communities and families affected by Hurricane Katrina.

In the years following Katrina, FEMA has significantly improved its ability to assist communities in responding to and recovering from disasters. This progress is bolstered by the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006, which gave FEMA clear guidance on its mission and priorities. The Act also provided the legislative authorities needed to better partner with state, local, tribal, and territorial governments before, during, and after disasters. Other improvements include:

- improved ability to provide support to states and tribes ahead of a disaster;
- development of a National Disaster Recovery Framework;
- establishment of incident management assistance teams;
- improved search and rescue capability;
- establish the regional emergency communications coordination working groups;
- enhanced partnerships with the private sector; and
- support for the inclusion of people with access and functional needs.

FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate spoke proudly of FEMA's progress, saying "Today, FEMA has the authority necessary to lean forward and leverage the entire emergency management team in response and recovery efforts... This team includes not only government but also the private sector, non-profits, and citizens themselves. We support survivors and this holistic approach emphasizes the importance of working as a team to prevent, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards." **IAJ**