

## **Agencies respond to Hurricane Harvey**

Multiple federal agencies are responding to the damage caused by Hurricane Harvey, which made landfall as a category 4 hurricane on August 25 and was later downgraded to a tropical storm. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) encouraged individuals in affected areas to follow the instructions of state, local, and tribal officials, and cautioned that evacuees should not return to evacuated areas until it is safe to do so.

According to FEMA Director Brock Long, “This will be a devastating disaster, probably the worst disaster the state’s seen.” Daniel Porter of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration had similar feelings, saying “This is really going to be an event that is going to continue to worsen.”

FEMA’s National Response Coordination Center in Washington and its Regional Response Coordination Center in Denton, Texas, coordinated the federal response, which included search and rescue operations, emergency medical services, and providing food, water, and other supplies to those affected by Harvey.

The Department of Defense provided additional manpower, vehicles, aircraft, and supplies as needed, and the entire Texas National Guard force was activated to respond to Harvey. Other federal agencies involved in the response included the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Energy, National Guard Bureau, and the Department of Health and Human Services, among others. Many non-government organizations were also involved.

President Trump praised the agencies’ response, tweeting “wonderful coordination between Federal, State and Local Governments in the Great State of Texas...”

**- Department of Defense**

## **Standing room only at first brown-bag lecture of AY2018**

On August 22, over 100 students, staff, and faculty of the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College (CGSC), as well other individuals from the surrounding area, packed into the Arnold Conference Room at CGSC’s Lewis and Clark Center to attend the inaugural lecture in CGSC’s Academic Year 2018 Interagency Brown-Bag Lecture Series. This is the second year for the lecture series, which is co-hosted by the U.S. Army Command and General Staff School (CGSS) and the Arthur D. Simons Center for Interagency Cooperation.

Mr. Patrick J. Wesner, the Command and General Staff College Distinguished Chair for Development Studies, provided an overview on the history and purpose of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), discussing USAID’s changing functions over time and its current role in U.S. national security. After his presentation, Wesner opened the floor for questions from the audience. During the Q&A, Wesner discussed how USAID prioritizes missions, chooses partner non-governmental organizations, and deals with governments who may be resistant to their mission, particularly missions involving human rights.

The InterAgency Brown-Bag Lecture Series is an extracurricular, interagency topic-focused series that is designed to enhance and enrich the CGSS curriculum. All lectures in the series are open to the public. Attendees are welcome to bring their own lunches into the conference room for the presentation. A schedule for future InterAgency Brown-Bag Lectures can be found on the Simons Center website.

**- Simons Center**