
Mitigation Strategy Development in a Disaster Environment

Collaboration in the Joint Field Office
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FEMA

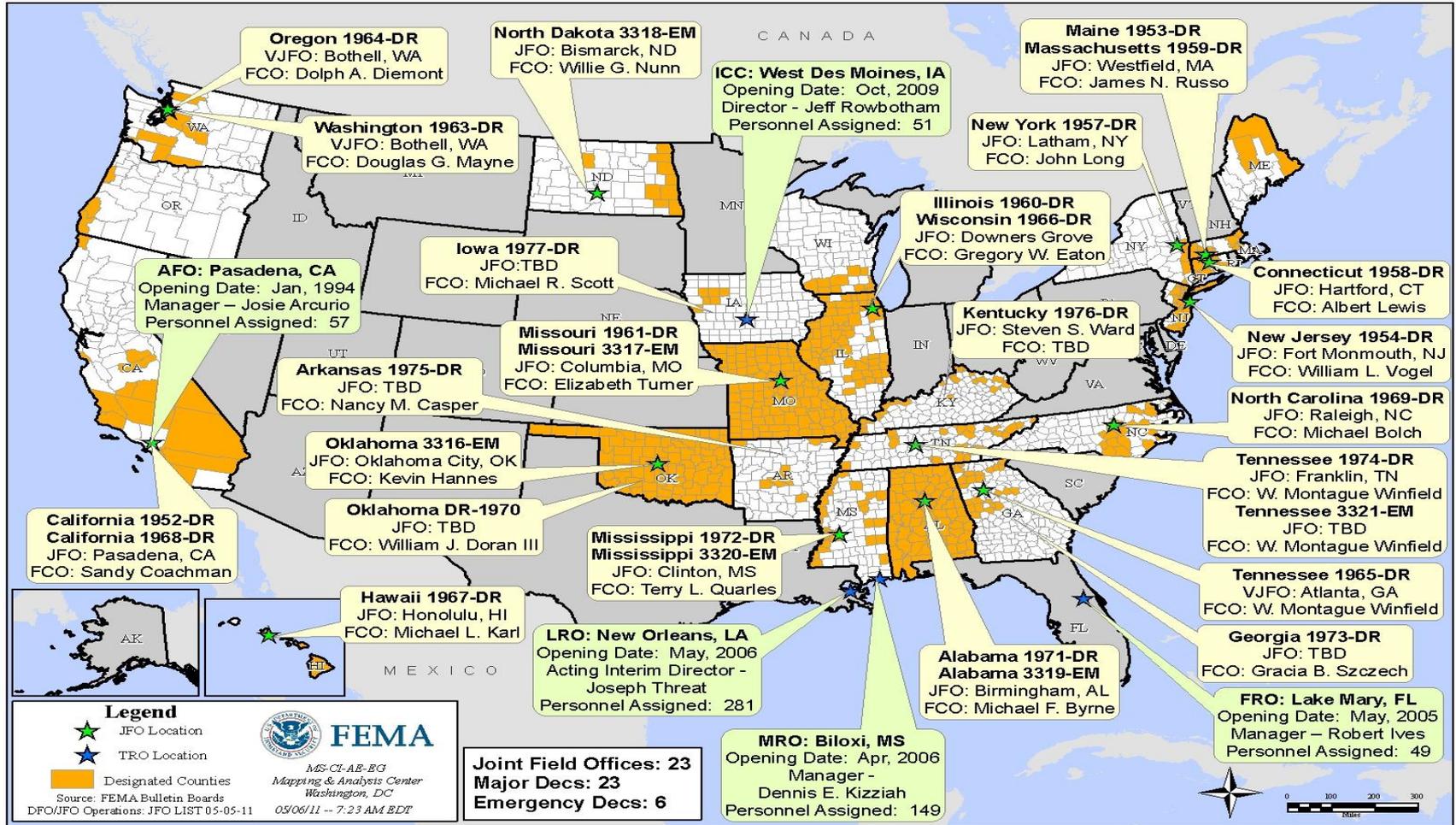
Joint Field Office

- The JFO is a temporary Federal multi-agency coordination center established locally to facilitate field-level incident management activities (uses ICS)
- Provides FEMA with a central location for coordination with state, local, tribal, federal and other organizations after a disaster
- Activities include preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation.
- Public assistance, individual assistance, SBA and Mitigation
- Mitigation Branch under the Operations Section



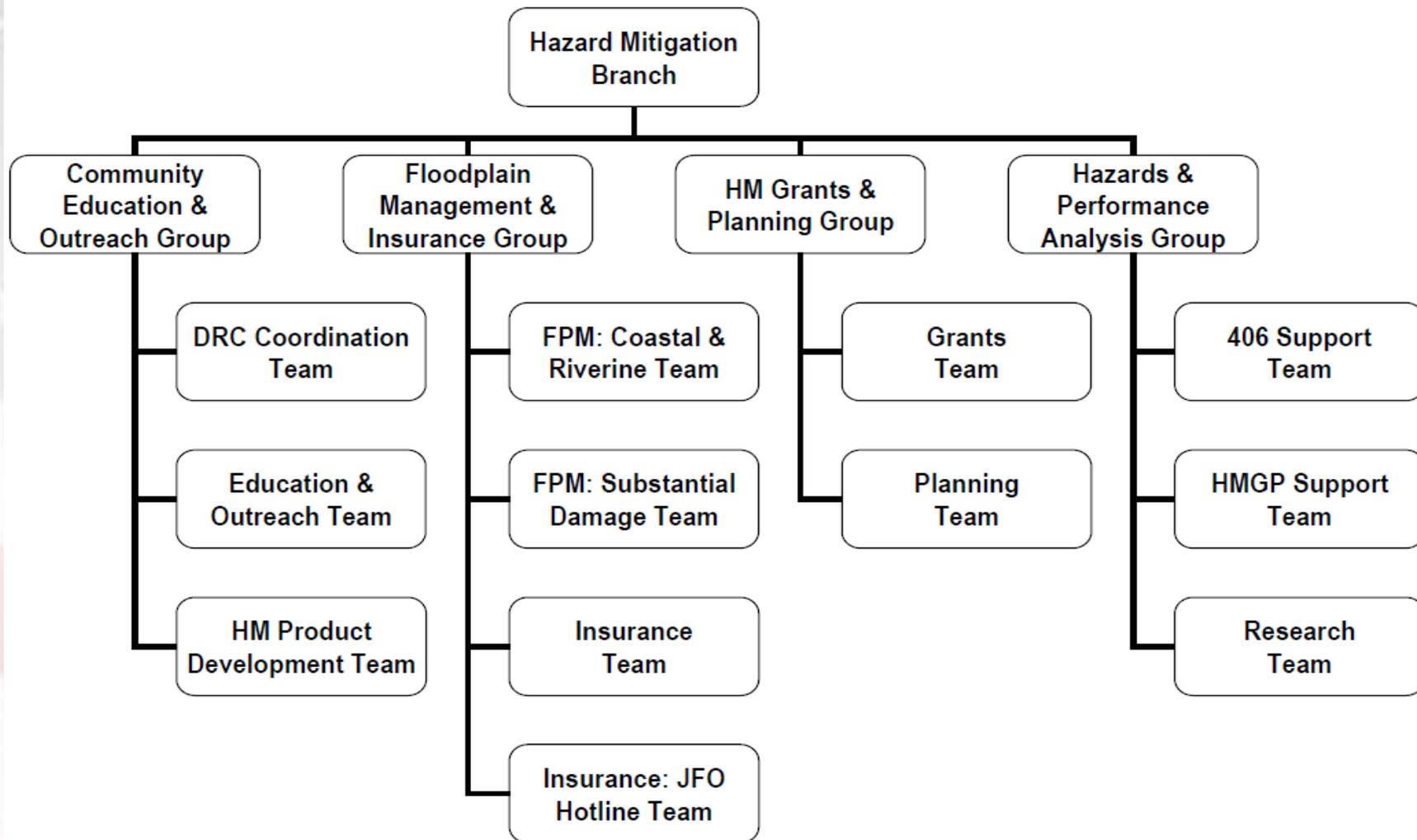
Open Joint Field Office Locations (5/11)

Open Field Offices & Designated Counties as of 05/06/2011



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Mitigation Branch



Mitigation Branch Key Responsibilities

The HM Branch partners with Federal, State, Tribal, local governments and other organizations to accomplish their post-disaster mission.

- Assess the factors that contributed to disaster effects.
- Identify hazards.
- Identify structures, population, and special features for risk assessment.
- Identify risk reduction opportunities.
- Develop and implement hazard mitigation strategies, which are consistent with FEMA-approved State, Tribal, and local hazard mitigation plans.
- Educate the public in methods to reduce future risks.
- Promote hazard mitigation planning and project development that will result in sustainable community development.
- Provide grants to fund hazard mitigation projects.
- Assist communities in post-disaster administration and marketing of the NFIP.
- Assess the performance of ongoing hazard mitigation activities.
- Identify and document proven mitigation actions and/or projects.
- Quantify the benefits of hazard mitigation.



Mitigation Branch Strategy Development

Develop and implement hazard mitigation strategies, which are consistent with FEMA-approved State, Tribal, and local hazard mitigation plans.

- What are State, Local and Tribal HM priorities?
- What strategies can we enact to accomplish priorities?
- Who can implement strategies?



State Strategy

DR 1895 Massachusetts Spring Flooding Disaster

Series of major storms from March 13-March 31, 2010.

6-12 inches of rain in eastern and central MA

7 Counties included in the Presidential Disaster Declaration

- Support state in achieving its mitigation goals;
- Identify risk reduction opportunities during disaster recovery;
- Identify risk reduction opportunities for grant applications;
- Educate local officials on reducing risks and building stronger, safer communities; and,
- Identify and document mitigation successes.



Strategy Tasks

TASK	LEAD AGENCY	DATE DUE
Work with FEMA (and other federal partner agencies – USGS, NWS, etc.) to capture ‘high water marks’ for locations in Massachusetts.	FEMA	06/30
Map river gauge sites with historic discharge from the event to align with potential damage sites in State.	FEMA	Complete 04/18
Coordinate with FEMA, USGS & other relevant agencies to evaluate methodologies for determining flood frequencies in MA; including review and update of certain H&H studies.	MEMA/FEMA	TBD
Partner with the State floodplain manager @ DCR to provide technical assistance & support during recovery efforts.	DCR/FEMA	Ongoing



Benefits of Multi-Agency Collaboration

- Funding
 - USACE, NRCS, HUD, USGS, USRDA, SBA, EDA and state agencies like DOT, Housing & CD, Economic Development, etc.
- Expertise
 - Projects can benefit from the ideas and input of experts
- Authority
 - Who can do what
- Scope
 - Potential for additional benefits
- Communication



How Can We Integrate Multiple-Agencies?

- Disaster Overview Session
 - State can provide overview of disaster, impacts and potential opportunities
- Strategy Development Sessions
 - Development of the State Mitigation Strategy with input from partners
- Strategy Implementation Sessions
 - Develop strategy implementation that takes advantage of what partners can offer
- Short and Long term partnership
 - Many MIT opportunities don't happen overnight, keep relationship alive through an MOU



Where Are We Now?

- Current Disasters
- Current Initiatives
 - HUD Sustainability
 - Silver Jackets
 - New England Federal Partners
 - Other
- Future Efforts



Conclusion

- Increasing mitigation opportunities is a key goal of Mitigation JFO Operations
- Need to take advantage of the resources available to optimize these opportunities
- Federal, state agencies and other partners offer resources we need to include from the mitigation strategy development through implementation

Thank you!

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