



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
INSTITUTE OF WATER RESOURCES, CORPS OF ENGINEERS



August 19, 2014

To Those New to Silver Jackets:

Welcome to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers 2014 Interagency Flood Risk Management Project Workshop in Southbridge, Massachusetts. Our focus this year is to review and learn from the collaborative efforts of Silver Jackets and other flood risk management interagency team projects. In support of the workshop, we have prepared a Special Edition Silver Jackets newsletter to provide you with information about federal agency programs and resources available to support the continued collaboration, coordination and communication efforts of interagency Silver Jackets teams. We hope the Special Edition will serve as a useful guide and resource, now and in the future.

Silver Jackets Background

Despite the interdependencies among the numerous flood risk management activities at both the federal and non-federal level, no single agency or program exists that effectively addresses all the diverse needs during the flood risk life cycle (preparation, response, recovery and mitigation). As a consequence, opportunities for cross-agency collaboration are missed, especially on a watershed and/or regional basis. Additionally, activities carried out under different agencies' programs can conflict with one another. The absence of continuous collaboration can result in conflicting policies, programs and interests from multiple layers of government, and can undermine our best efforts to improve flood risk management nationwide.

Silver Jackets Program Purpose

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) National Flood Risk Management Program established the Silver Jackets to support the critical need for ongoing interagency collaboration at the state level. The overarching strategy of the program is that of collaboration and partnership. This innovative program provides an opportunity to consistently bring together multiple state, federal, tribal and local agencies to learn from one another and apply their knowledge to reduce flood risk. State agencies, including those of the State Hazard Mitigation Officer and State National Flood Insurance Program Coordinator, come together in a common forum with the federal family of agencies to address their state's flood risk management priorities. By working together, creative strategies can be crafted for individuals and communities and, thus, turn vision into reality.

Developing relationships are the key to successful Silver Jackets partnerships. These partnerships can result in a coordinated effort to gather needed information or data, efficiently maximizing its availability to others. Scarce resources can be used more effectively by seeking out partners who have similar needs and sharing resources, personnel, data and other support to address those needs. By using this approach, a team can create regional or statewide results rather than individuals accomplishing more limited local efforts. For more information, please contact me at Jennifer.K.Dunn@usace.army.mil or visit the Silver Jackets website at <http://www.nfrmp.us/state/>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jennifer Dunn', is written over a horizontal line.

Jennifer Dunn, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
National Silver Jackets Program Manager