



## Washington, DC Silver Jackets 2014 Annual Report

### About Silver Jackets

The Silver Jackets (SJ) program is sponsored by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The program's teams are established at the state level to improve the management of flood risks nationwide. No single agency has all the answers, but often multiple programs can be leveraged to provide a cohesive solution. The name *Silver Jackets* is symbolic and showcases the common mission of diverse agencies during flood-disaster response, as agencies generally wear different colored jackets while responding. For more information visit <http://www.nfrmp.us/state/>.

### About the Washington, DC Silver Jackets

Our vision is to establish and strengthen intergovernmental federal and District of Columbia (District) partnerships as a catalyst in developing and implementing comprehensive, resilient, and sustainable solutions to the District's flood-hazard challenges. We do this through collaboration before, during, and after a flood, evaluating flood risks, providing assistance to implement projects, and educating stakeholders and residents about flood risk. The District SJ website is <http://www.nfrmp.us/state/factDC.cfm>.

### Current Participating Agencies

District of Columbia Agencies: District Department of the Environment (DDOE)#\*; D.C. Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency(HSEMA)\*; D.C Office of Planning\*; Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice\*; Department of Public Works; Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs; District Department of Transportation(DDOT); and Department of Insurance, Securities and Banking

Federal Agencies: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)#\*; U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)\*; National Park Service (NPS)#\*; National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration - National Weather Service(NOAA/NWS)\*; U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)\*; U.S. Army - Military District of Washington; U.S. Navy; General Services Administration; U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); and National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC)\*

Other Participating Regional Agencies: District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (DC Water)\*; Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA); University of the District of Columbia; University of Maryland; and George Mason University

# Co-Leader Agency  
\* Signatory Agency



## 2014 Accomplishments

### Team-Wide

Meetings: Team meetings were held on January 9 (hosted by DDOE), March 25 (USACE), June 11 (NCPC), August 27 (Military District of Washington), and December 3 (WMATA).

New 43rd Charter: On June 11, DC SJ met and celebrated the signing of a [memorandum of understanding](#) (MOU or Charter) to sanction the team name. This title replaced the one used since 2012 (Washington DC Flood Risk Management Working Group). Eleven agencies signed the Charter; however, more than 20 agencies are currently participating in DC SJ.



*DC SJ Team Celebrating the Signed Charter on June 11, 2014*

North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive Study (NACCS): DC SJ provided important comments on the draft versions of the NACCS that more accurately described and accounted for the major flood risks to the nation's capital.

Actions by Participating Agencies: DC SJ has influenced and supported participating agencies and their stakeholders to improve their flood preparedness under their existing authorities. Examples of agencies improving the plans and programs include DDOE's Floodplain Management Program, HSEMA's Hazard Mitigation Plan, NPS's Regional Flood Plan, and WMATA's Flood Emergency Plan.

Interagency Projects: DC SJ successfully received funding for two interagency projects: (1) Potomac and Anacostia Rivers Flood Inundation Mapping Tool, and (2) Potomac River Flood Fighting Exercise.

National Silver Jackets Workshop: DC SJ co-leaders participated in the annual [National Silver Jackets Program Workshop](#) in Southbridge, MA from August 19 to 21. DC SJ shared our success and lessons learned from ongoing activities, learned about other Silver Jackets teams' interagency flood risk management projects, and obtained information that will enhance interagency project collaboration and leveraging resources.



Guest Presentations: DC SJ invited guest speakers to provide latest information on technologies, solutions, and projects, such as manufacturers of flood barrier technologies and the National Mall Underground proposal.

## Communication Task Group

17th Street Closure Communications Plan: The Task Group developed and implemented a successful communication plan for the initial erection of the 17th Street Closure, including

- A definition of key terms for communicating flood issues
- A two-page [DC SJ fact sheet](#)
- Talking points and Q&As
- A [press release](#)

17th Street Closure Installation Testing Events: The Task Group coordinated and supported the first and second installation testing events. The events were well reported by several media outlets.



*Installation of the newly constructed 17<sup>th</sup> St Closure  
October 31, 2014 – photo USACE*

## Flood Inundation Mapping Task Group

Flood Inundation Mapping Project: The Task Group applied for and received USACE interagency project funds for development of a real-time flood inundation mapping tool. The project, which was initiated in the summer of 2014, will develop an online tool for presenting the NOAA/NWS flood forecasts for Washington, DC. There will be two sets of maps: one for riverine floods from the Potomac River basin and the other for storm surges from the Chesapeake Bay. The press release can be found at [http://www.nfrmp.us/state/docs/DC/Flood\\_Inundation\\_Mapping\\_Press\\_Release\\_091614-001\\_FINAL.pdf](http://www.nfrmp.us/state/docs/DC/Flood_Inundation_Mapping_Press_Release_091614-001_FINAL.pdf)



DDOE and NCPC provided a letter of support to USACE for its funding request for the project.

## **Flood Emergency Planning Task Group**

Flood Emergency Manual Update: The Task Group began updating the 2006 Washington, DC Flood Emergency Manual (FEM), including the following tasks:

- Applied for and received a grant for exercising the FEM in November 2015
- Developed 17th Street Closure decision guidance
- Provided technical support (e.g., hurricane and flooding scenarios)
- Participated in the HSEMA Hurricane Exercise at the DC Emergency Operations Center

Flood Technical Advisory Group (FTAG): In preparation for the HSEMA Hurricane Exercise, the Task Group developed a new FTAG to receive NOAA/NWS forecasts and provide technical advice to decision makers during a flood event.

Hurricane Exercise: On June 4 and 5, the Task Group sent a member to attend the HSEMA Hurricane Exercise. The team member brought needed technical advice to those receiving NOAA/NWS forecasts and to those making decisions for flood fighting.

## **Levee Certification and Accreditation Task Group**

The Task Group met weekly throughout the year to coordinate 17th Street Closure completion, various levee projects, and the Potomac Park levee certification and accreditation process.

NPS provided funding to USACE for levee certification, and contracting for a consulting firm is underway.



## 2015 Planned Activities

### Team-Wide

- Coordinating with USACE to support the project to raise the Potomac Park levee system to the full 700,000 cubic-feet-per-second authorized level
- Increasing outreach to other organizations to promote flood risk awareness and management in the District and the National Capital Region
- Cataloging the many flood-related ongoing and potential projects in the area
- Creating standard operating procedures for each Task Group
- Forming a new Interior Flooding Task Group (interest from WMATA, NCPC, DDOT, DDOE, USGS, and NOAA)
- Providing input on major studies and projects during the year
- Supporting the NOAA/NWS flood anniversary commemoration project
- Supporting the District floodplain management program in compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program, including FEMA's Risk Map project and the preparation for the Community Rating System participation
- Participating with climate adaptation and resilience initiatives in the District
- Advocating for District participation in C40's [Connecting Delta Cities](#) network for further exchange among city members in flood management issue
- Inviting guest speakers and consultants to present innovative ideas and potential flood risk reduction projects, including storm surge barriers, living with water concepts
- Looking for funding opportunities to support the team activities and efforts

### Communication Task Group

- Communicating with the public about levee system certification/accreditation
- Promoting flood risk awareness and management to agencies and other stakeholders

### Flood Inundation Mapping Task Group

- Completing the interagency flood inundation mapping project

### Flood Emergency Planning Task Group

- Updating the 2006 FEM for the District
- Holding a tabletop exercise of the updated FEM in November 2015

### Levee Certification and Accreditation Task Group

- Supporting USACE completion of the Potomac Park levee system risk screening
- Repairing levee penetrations
- Determining responsibility for erection of the dike at P Street SW
- Working on levee certification with a goal of accreditation and revising the District Flood Insurance Rate Map by spring 2016
- Designing a permanent levee for 23rd Street NW

[END]