



Washington, DC Silver Jackets 2015 Annual Report

About Silver Jackets

The Silver Jackets program is sponsored by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Silver Jackets teams are established at the state level to improve the management of flood risks nationwide. No single agency has all the answers; however, 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. More information about the program can be found at <http://silverjackets.nfrmp.us/>.

About the Washington, DC Silver Jackets

DC Silver Jackets’ 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 many flood-hazard challenges. We do this through collaboration before, during, and after a flood, by evaluating flood risks, providing assistance to implement projects, and educating stakeholders and residents about flood risk. DC Silver Jackets website can be found at <http://silverjackets.nfrmp.us/State-Teams/Washington-DC>

Current Participating Agencies

District of Columbia Agencies: Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE)#*; 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; 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 (GSA); U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); and National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC)*

Other Regional Agencies/Organizations: District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (DC Water)*; Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA); Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOC); University of the District of Columbia; University of Maryland; and George Mason University

Co-Leader Agency
* Signatory Agency



2015 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Team-Wide

Meetings: Team meetings were held on February 24 (hosted by DOEE), May 12 (MWCOCG), July 21 (GSA), and October 20 (NCPC). The average attendance in each meeting has grown from about 20 participants in 2014, to about 35 participants in 2015.



2014 - DC Silver Jackets Celebrating the Signed Charter on June 11, 2014



2015 – DC Silver Jackets Meeting on October 20, 2015

International Recognition: In November, the DC Silver Jackets was recognized as climate leader and highlighted in the global publication, [Cities100](#). The Cities100 publication is developed by Sustainia in collaboration with C40—a network of the cities around the world taking action on climate change—and the philanthropic association Realdania.



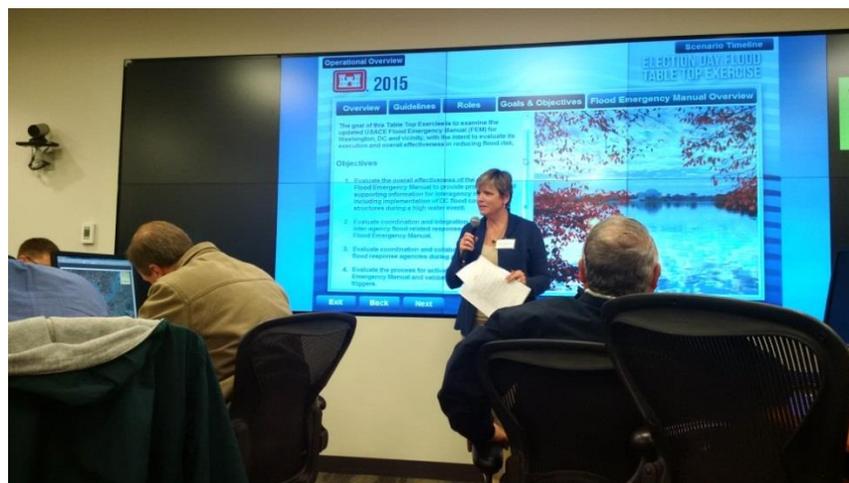
The publication names 100 city programs to address climate change that can be scaled and replicated across the world. These solutions have been chosen after reviewing more than 216 submissions from 94 cities across all regions in the world.

Incidents: Hurricane Joaquin had the potential to hit the Eastern U.S. coast. The DC Silver Jackets monitored the hurricane track and held two conference calls to prepare for the event. Even though Hurricane Joaquin did not affect our area, the region was prepared, in part, because of the DC Silver Jackets proactive efforts.

Interagency Projects: In 2015, the DC Silver Jackets worked on two interagency projects. The Flood Inundation Mapping Tool project that was initiated in 2014 is in its final phase and expected to be completed in early 2016. The DC Silver Jackets initiated the second interagency project, DC Flood Fighting Exercise, in early 2015, by forming a planning team including USACE, FEMA, NWS, NPS, DOEE, and HSEMA, who met regularly to plan for the exercise in November 2015.

DC Flood Fighting Exercise: On November 3, 2015, the DC Silver Jackets completed a tabletop exercise to test the effectiveness of the District's revised Flood Emergency Manual. The exercise, held at the District's Emergency Operations Center at HSEMA, was attended by 58 participants from 18 Federal, State, County, and District agencies.

Participants walked through a planned storm scenario and determined what emergency response actions, like the closure of the 17th Street structure, they would take and when. Currently, the Flood Emergency Planning Task Group is updating the DC FEM, This updated FEM will lead to the reduction of damages to private and public properties and improved life safety. The updated manual will feed into a project to develop a District-wide flood emergency plan. There are numerous agencies that have roles and responsibilities during a flood, and they all must be fully prepared to respond in order to reduce the risk of flooding to residents and the critical downtown infrastructure.



DC Silver Jackets hosted the table top exercise on November 3, 2015



NPS Tested the 17th St Closure coincident with the November 3 table top exercise

National Silver Jackets Workshop: Members of the DC Silver Jackets participated in the annual [National Flood Risk Management Workshop](#) hosted by USACE in Southbridge, MA, on December 2-3, 2015. The DC Silver Jackets shared its successes and lessons learned from ongoing activities, learned about other Silver Jackets teams' interagency projects, and obtained useful information that will enhance its interagency collaboration and leveraging resources.

Presentations: In 2015, the DC Silver Jackets meetings included numerous presentations from its members and guest speakers. Below is a list of some of the presentations:

- Storm Surge Barrier for DC Metropolitan Area by CH2M
- Flood/Stormwater Integration by Montgomery (MD), Prince George's (MD), Arlington (VA), and Fairfax (VA) Counties
- Flood Risk Mitigation Activities by GSA
- Potomac River Gauges and Flood Forecasting by USGS and NWS
- Project Reviews and Flood Related Activities by NCPD
- Updates on EO 13690, Federal Flood Risk Management Standards by USACE
- Technical Mapping Advisory Council Overview by USACE

Communications Task Group

DC Silver Jackets Communication Guidelines: The Task Group developed and published guidelines for internal and external communication by DC Silver Jackets members. The guidelines include communication goals, a list of agency public information officers and subject matter experts, definitions, frequently asked questions, sample key messages and talking points, and policy and procedures in web posting.

17th St Closure Communication Plan: The Task Group also established a specific event communication plan for the 17th St. Closure project that is transferable and scalable. The plan includes refined and specific messages and list of impacted stakeholders.



News Stories:

- News Story on November 16, 2015 - [Table Top Exercise](#)
- News Story on November 20, 2015 - [Cities100 Recognition](#)

The Task Group also maintains and updates the DC Silver Jackets' [webpage](#) and [LinkedIn](#) group page to promote the visibility of the team and its activities.

Flood Inundation Mapping Task Group

Flood Inundation Mapping Project: The Task Group made significant progress on the inundation map project. The product will be a real-time, online flood inundation mapping tool. The project, which was initiated in the summer of 2014, will display flooded areas based on the NOAA/NWS flood forecasts for three areas of Washington, DC. There will be two sets of maps: one for riverine floods from the Potomac River basin and the other for tidal floods from the Chesapeake Bay.

The FIM project entails a set of digital maps to help government leaders, emergency managers, and the public better predict flood impacts during high-water events along the Potomac and Anacostia rivers throughout the District of Columbia, Northern Virginia and adjacent communities. There will be two sets of maps: one that shows predicted riverine flooding and another that shows predicted tidal/storm surge flooding. This pilot project represents the first flood inundation mapping tool for this region tied to U.S. Geological Survey gages, making it a more accurate and reliable tool for emergency response decisions. The National Weather Service will use the gage data to project where flooding is expected. This tool will prove invaluable for predicting and displaying the extent and depth of flooding for impending storms, so we can better protect human lives and the critical and historic infrastructure in this flood-prone area.



New flood inundation mapping was used in the November 3 table top exercise



Flood Emergency Planning Task Group

Flood Emergency Manual Update: The Task Group has worked with USACE and other agencies to perform an update of the Washington DC Flood Emergency Manual in advance of the November 3rd flood fighting exercise.

The Flood Technical Advisory Group (FTAG) under this Task Group worked to develop a new mapping layer to show which roads would be closed for various flood levels. These images were used in the flood exercise.

Interior Flooding Task Group

Interior flooding is often overlooked and misunderstood in the National Capital Region. The purpose of the Interior Flooding Task Group is to assist the DC Silver Jackets identify, by way of mapping, the areas within the DC region that experience intense localized flooding. Additionally, the task group will summarize the findings for the areas and identify any critical infrastructure in efforts to help other agencies or corporations mitigate interior flood risks.

The members of the Task Group began by sharing critical information from their agencies that identified problem flood areas. This information was converted into longitude and latitude coordinates and entered into a GIS map, which conveyed overland flooding areas that occurs in the District. This map was then converted into a Heat Map to protect the exact locations and information provided. Task Group members include WMATA, NCPC, DDOT, DOEE, USGS, NOAA/NWS, and HSEMA.

Levee Certification and Accreditation Task Group

This Task Group met 14 times during 2015. Items of discussion included repairs/certification of the Potomac Park Levee system, exercise of the 17th St Levee Closure, initiating a new USACE project to raise the levee system to the authorized level, and finalization of the USACE levee risk screening.



2016 PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Team-Wide

- Planning and executing a DC Flood Awareness Campaign to promote understanding and mitigation of flood risk. This campaign will include a one-day DC Flood Summit, and flood awareness events throughout the District in 2016.
- 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.
- Studying ways to temporarily raise the levee should the forecast be above the currently constructed level.
- Developing another interagency project that promotes flood risk reduction: “Building resilient Watts Branch Communities in a Changing Climate.”
- Engaging with local communities in taking actions to reduce flood risk.
- Providing input on major studies and projects during the year.
- Supporting the District’s comprehensive flood risk management program in building resilient DC in a changing climate.
- Promoting the role of the DC Silver Jackets in flood risk management and building climate resilience in the District.
- Participating in climate adaptation and resilience initiatives in the District.
- Looking for funding opportunities to support the team’s activities and efforts.
- Supporting Federal Agencies in implementing E.O. 13690 for the DC region.

Communications Task Group

- Communicating with the public and stakeholders about levee system certification/accreditation and the upcoming Flood Inundation Mapping tool.
- Promoting flood risk awareness and flood risk management to agencies and other stakeholders.

Flood Inundation Mapping Task Group

- Completing the flood inundation mapping project, including hosting webinars and other outreach activities.

Flood Emergency Planning Task Group

- Supporting USACE for updating the 2006 Washington DC Flood Emergency Manual with lessons learned from the flood exercise, the new inundation maps, and comments from the exercise’s participating agencies.

Levee Certification and Accreditation Task Group

- Supporting USACE and FEMA in the certification and accreditation of the Potomac Park levee system and revising the Flood Insurance Rate Map.
- Supporting USACE in the completion of the Potomac Park levee system risk screening report.
- Determining responsibility for erection of the closure at P and 2nd streets SW.

Interior Flooding Task Group

- Completing a comprehensive interior flooding heat map.
- Developing a report that highlights areas of interior flooding and identifies the key stakeholders necessary to mitigate risk.