DISTRIBUTION OF COLUMBIA FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT
(SILVER JACKETS) TEAM

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) formalizes the establishment of the Flood Risk Management (Silver Jackets) Team for the District of Columbia (District) and provides a framework to guide DC Silver Jackets Team members for the implementation of the goals contained herein.

The DC Silver Jackets Team (Team), composed of District, federal, and regional organizations, is dedicated to working collaboratively in developing and implementing solutions to flood hazards by combining available agency resources, which include funding, programs, and technical expertise.

The collaborative agreement forged by this MOU in no way limits participating members from taking actions in accordance with their existing authorities and policies. This MOU does not encumber any participating entity with additional financial commitments to support the Team or its recommendations.

For the purposes of this document, the following definitions will be used:

*Mitigation* is the effort to reduce loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters.

*Risk* is the product of the probability of a flooding event and the consequences of the flooding event.

*Life-cycle* denotes all phases of the flooding emergency: preparation, response, recovery and mitigation. The intent is to integrate mitigation into all phases.

**Authority of the District of Columbia**

Authority of the District for this MOU is the D.C. Official Code § 1-301.01 (j) and (k).

**Vision Statement**

Establish and strengthen intergovernmental federal and District partnerships as a catalyst in developing and implementing comprehensive, resilient, and sustainable solutions to the District’s flood hazard challenges.

**Mission Statement**

The Team members will establish a continuous inter-governmental collaboration that works with other agencies and organizations to accomplish the following:
Facilitate strategic, integrated life-cycle mitigation actions to reduce the threat, vulnerability, and consequences of all types of flooding in the District;

Create or supplement a continuous mechanism to collaboratively solve District-prioritized flood risk issues;

Increase and improve flood risk communication, awareness, and outreach to other organizations and the general public;

Foster leveraging of available resources and information among federal and District agencies;

Provide suggestions for comprehensive flood risk management policies and strategies;

Advocate changes to existing policies and processes that will improve life-cycle flood risk reduction; and

Promote wise stewardship of the taxpayers’ investments through the use of benefit-cost analysis.

**Goals**

1. Ensure continuous collaboration before, during, and after a disaster;
2. Identify and quantify flood risk;
3. Provide a forum for examining all types of solutions for flood risk management, including both non-structural and structural solutions;
4. Learn about member agency programs, identify limitations and opportunities, and combine programs to create integrated, comprehensive, resilient, and sustainable solutions;
5. Create a multi-agency technical resource for District and federal agencies;
6. Provide assistance in implementing high priority actions identified in the District’s multi-hazard mitigation plan and the District Response Plan (e.g., Support ESF#14 – Damage Assessment efforts in the aftermath of flood incidents);
7. Improve flood risk outreach by presenting a unified interagency message to better educate and advise mutual stakeholders;
8. Improve internal and external risk communication, including increased awareness of residual risk;
9. Identify and facilitate improvements to existing programs, policies, and processes;
10. Identify opportunities to combine resources, identify gaps, minimize duplicative efforts, and ensure consistency;
11. Catalog and share information on past and future projects and initiatives; and
12. Prioritize current and future initiatives individually and collectively.

**Organization and Membership**

The Team will be interagency in nature. The Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE), as the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) coordinator and the floodplain administrator for the District, will be the lead contact for the District. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Baltimore District Silver Jackets Coordinator will be the lead contact for USACE. Membership will vary based on available resources and team focus. Team members may be from the District, federal, and regional levels of the organizations. As the Team priorities evolve, the
Team members may invite other District, federal and regional agencies, and non-governmental organizations to join the Team.

Current Team members include the following agencies and organizations:

**District of Columbia:**
- Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE)
- D.C. Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency (HSEMA)
- D.C. Office of Planning (OP)
- Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice

**Federal:**
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Baltimore District
- U.S Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Region III
- National Park Service (NPS)
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s National Weather Service (NOAA/NWS)
- U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
- National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC)
- General Services Administration (GSA)
- District of Columbia National Guard

**Regional:**
- DC Water and Sewer Authority (DC Water)

**Roles & Responsibilities**

The Team will focus on the District’s priority areas and provide available technical expertise and resources when possible. All participating agencies and organizations will contribute experience and information to Team efforts. The USACE representative is available to support the Team, including maintaining and distributing a contact sheet; organizing, coordinating, and facilitating Team meetings (including agendas with input from other team members); and recording and maintaining final meeting minutes.

**Task Groups and Standing Group**

The Team may establish temporary task groups or standing work groups to support specific goals under this MOU. Task groups may have a brief mission statement, goals, reporting requirements, leader, and members.

**Meetings**

At a minimum, meetings will be conducted on a quarterly basis. Coordination between meetings may occur through email and teleconferencing. Meeting agendas shall be published at least one week prior to a meeting. Draft minutes shall be distributed via email for comment. Final minutes shall be distributed to all members and posted on a public website. A Team webpage will be developed, updated, and maintained by USACE, though Team members may choose to post minutes to any agency’s website. The webpage will be hosted under the National Silver Jackets website.
Decision Making

Decisions will be made through team consensus after discussion.

Miscellaneous

Commitment to and participation in the actions and activities covered by this MOU by each agency or organization is contingent upon the availability of appropriated funds and budget priorities. Nothing in this MOU, in and of itself, or any decisions made by the Team, obligates the parties to expend appropriations or to enter into any contract, assistance agreement, MOU, or other financial obligation.

This agreement in no way restricts the federal and District agencies that are party to this agreement from participating in similar activities or arrangements with other public or private agencies, organizations, or individuals.

All data and information produced as a result of this MOU shall be available for use by agency members in connection with their ongoing programs. This includes publication of results where appropriate, except in cases prohibited by proprietary or security considerations.

Modification

This MOU may be modified at any time upon the mutual agreement of the majority of Team members. Modifications shall be in writing and signed by the agencies’ authorized representatives.

Review

The Team members’ authorized representatives shall cooperate in a joint review of this MOU’s provisions three years from the date of the last signature and every three years thereafter, or upon an agency’s written request. Failure to conduct a review, however, shall not result in termination of this MOU.

Termination and Withdrawal

The terms of this MOU, as modified with the agreement of the participating agencies, will remain in effect for 10 years from the date of the last signature on this MOU. It will terminate on that date unless renewed by the agencies’ authorized representatives in advance. Any agency, upon 60 days’ written notice to the other agencies, may withdraw from this MOU.

Effective Date

This MOU will become effective on the date of the last signature. By the signatures, the agencies acknowledge that their representatives have read, understood, and will abide by the foregoing statements.
J. Richard Jordan, III
Colonel, Baltimore District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Date: 19 Nov 14
Robert J. Shedlock
Director, MD-DE-DC Water Science Center
U.S. Geological Survey

Date: 3-18-14
Chris T. Geldart
Director
D.C. Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency

Date: 4/30/14

DC Silver Jackets Team MOU
Paul Quander  
Deputy Mayor for Public Safety and Justice  

Date: 5/21/14
Rosalynn Hughey
Interim Director
D.C. Office of Planning

Date: 3/25/14
George S. Hawkins
General Manager
D.C. Water and Sewer Authority

Date: 3-31-14
Keith A. Anderson
Director
District Department of the Environment

Date: 3/26/2014
Eugene Gruber
Mitigation Division Director, Region III
U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency

Date: 3/6/14
James E. Lee
Meteorologist-in-Charge, Baltimore/Washington
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration/National Weather Service

APR 16 2014
Date: ____________
Marcel Acosta  
Executive Director  
National Capital Planning Commission  

Date: 8/1/2019
Darren J. Blue
Regional Commissioner, Public Buildings Service
National Capital Region
General Services Administration

Date: 3·11·15
Major General William J. Walker
Commanding General
District of Columbia National Guard

Date: 1 Nov 2018