



INTERAGENCY CONNECTION

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Chair's Corner



The end of the Fiscal Year is upon us. For a year with so many challenges, it seems to have passed very quickly!

This will be my last newsletter article for the Interagency

Connection! At the end of this month, my term as Chairman will end and I will serve as Ex-Officio for the remainder of my time in Oklahoma.

I will be returning to Washington, DC within the next few months to work at Department of Energy. While I look forward to the challenges of the new assignment, I will miss the people of Oklahoma, my fellow FEB members, and those with whom I work at Southwestern Power Administration.

We have a few members from our Executive Policy Council retiring and I would encourage any federal agency leader, with an interest in connecting to the larger federal community, to become more involved with our Federal Executive Board! Our FEB is among the best and I have never felt like an Executive more than when I have the opportunity to network with other federal leaders in Oklahoma. Those opportunities are presented by our FEB through Executive Forums and our Executive Policy Council meetings.

I am proud to be associated with a group of

federal leaders that not only rise to the challenge of continuing resolutions, budgetary constraints, and reducing workforces, but juggle the additional challenges of natural disasters in Oklahoma. This fiscal year, we have had ice storms and heavy snow falls that took down electrical and phone lines. We faced tornadoes, floods, record breaking heat and draught.

The "can-do" pioneering spirit of people in Oklahoma and people who come to Oklahoma will continue to inspire me!

I encourage federal agencies to participate in Federal Executive Board training and other events offered for your convenience and costavoidance. I attended the most recent leadership development training and feel that it was a great value for the cost and time investment!

I encourage all of our FEB members to continue to support those elected to officer positions of our FEB; they do this in addition to the full time jobs they have as Federal Executives. I appreciate the support, encouragement, and assistance that I have received during my term as Chairman and will remember it fondly in the journey of my career.

Jon Worthington, ChairmanPgInside StoryPgDistracted Driving2Spotlighting Agencies6Govt Mobile Apps4Upcoming Events7



Distracted Driving in the United States and Europe

Self-reported cell phone

use while driving in

the past 30 days,

United States, 2010

Note: 4.5% of respondents did not respond

Never

Just Once

or Rarely

to this question.

Regularly Or

Fairly Often

Distracted drivers are compromising their own and other peoples' safety behind the wheel. Nearly 15 people die each day in the United States in crashes that involve distracted driving, and another 1,200 people

are injured.¹

Distracted driving involves driving while doing another activity that takes your attention away from driving. Distracted driving activities include things like using a cell phone, texting, eating, drinking, and talking with passengers. Using in-vehicle technologies (such as navigation systems) and portable communication

devices can also be sources of distraction while driving. Texting while driving is especially dangerous because it combines visual, manual and cognitive distractions. Driving while distracted is serious and lifethreatening, not just to you and your passengers, but also to others on the road.

In 2009, more than 5,400 people were killed and an additional 448,000 were injured in crashes that were reported to involve driving while distrated. Among those killed or injured in these crashes, nearly 1,000 deaths and 24,000 injuries included cell phone use as the major distraction.

A recent CDC analysis examined the frequency of cell phone use and texting while driving in the United States and several countries within Europe.²

Talking on cell phone

United States:

35.6%

34.7%

25.2%

Overall, 25% of drivers in the United States reported that they talk on their cell phone

"regularly" or "fairly often" while driving.

- Younger age groups had higher use, with nearly 40% of those ages 18 to 29 reporting that they talk on their cell phone "regularly" or "fairly often" while driving.
- Older drivers were less likely to report cell phone use while driving; only 8% of those aged 60 or older reported talking on cell phones

"regularly" or "fairly often" while driving.

<u>Europe</u>

The percentage of European drivers who reported using the cell phone "regularly" or "fairly often" while driving ranged from 21% in the Netherlands to 3% in the United Kingdom.

Texting

United States:

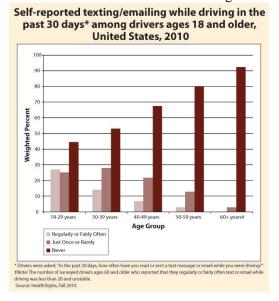
- Overall, 9% of drivers in the United States reported that they "regularly" or "fairly often" text or e-mail while driving.
- More than a quarter of 18 to 29 year-olds reported texting or e-mailing "regularly" or "fairly often" while driving.
- Only 3% of drivers aged 60 or older reported ever having texted or e-mailed while driving.

Europe

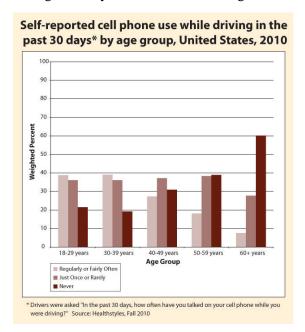
Overall, the percentage of drivers who reported texting or e-mailing "regularly" or "fairly often"



while driving ranged from 10% in the Netherlands to 1% in the United Kingdom.

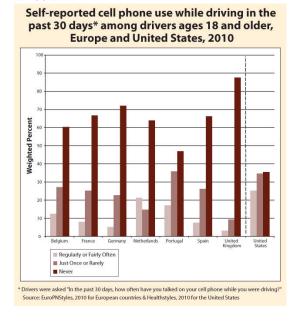


The percentage of drivers who text or e-mail while driving was higher among drivers aged 18 to 29 than other age groups—from 13% in Portugal to only 3% in the United Kingdom.



Distracted driving is an important and growing public health concern. Some states have enacted laws that ban the use of cell phones while driving, or that ban texting while driving. Regardless of what state you live in, all drivers on the road have a

personal responsibility to give their full attention to the driving task when behind the wheel.



References:

- National Highway Traffic Safety
 Administration. www.distraction.gov/research/PDF-Files/Distracted-Driving-2009.pdf Cited May 20, 2011.
- Data Source: EuroPNStyles, 2010 for European countries & HealthStyles, 2010 for the United States. EuroPNStyles and HealthStyles are proprietary database products of Porter Novelli and are licensed by the CDC for audience analysis related to health risk factors.

More Information

CDC Resources

- <u>Distracted Driving</u>
- Motor Vehicle Safety
- <u>State-based Costs of Deaths from Crashes</u>
- Prevention Policies
- Teen Drivers

External Resources

- U.S. Department of Transportation
- Official U.S. Government Website for Distracted Driving
- World Health Organization Mobile Phone Use:
 A Growing Problem of Driver Distraction [PDF 180KB]



Mobile apps are reshaping government services and operations

BY JOSEPH MARKS 08/19/2011 Posted on NextGov

Federal agencies so far have launched about 75 mobile apps aimed at everything from allowing citizens to more easily browse proposed legislation to helping anglers alert their peers when they've just released a short fin make shark.

Many of the biggest innovations in the government apps sphere, though, are happening at the state level.

About a year ago, Arkansas released the first state mobile app that allows families and friends of prison inmates to make secure payments into the inmates' accounts. That was the first government app anywhere in the country that allows users to make secure payments.

Now, 28 of the state's 68 counties allow residents to pay their property taxes through mobile devices.

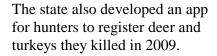
Arkansas began focusing much of its development energy on mobile apps when it realized that many of its poorer residents were saving money by using smartphones as both their primary phone and their primary access point to the Internet, said Phil Billingsley, general manager of the Information Network of Arkansas, a public-private partnership that runs many of the state's technology-driven citizen services.

"If you've only got so much disposable income, people are going to make an effort to put that toward a smartphone in a lot of cases," Billingsley said, "and that becomes their lifeline."

Arkansas is the second most impoverished state in the nation, according to some census data. The largest proportions of smartphone users who use their phone as their primary Internet access device make less than \$30,000

annually, according to a study by the Pew Internet and American Life Project.

More Arkansans now make deposits into family members' inmate accounts with their mobile phones than with any other deposit option, including an automated phone system, Billingsley said.



With information about deer kills coming in on an instantaneous and machine-readable basis, officials from the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission are able to make better and faster decisions about how to manage the state's deer

populations, Billingsley said.

"Previously, they were driving all over the state and gathering game check cards from these mom-and-pop shops along the trail and then entering them into a database," he said. "About three months later you'd get usable data. At first we were a little leery because we didn't want to put the mom-and-pop shops out of business, but it turned out the guys went there anyway to have a drink and a bite to eat and brag about their kills."

The Information Network of Arkansas' parent company is NIC, which runs similar tech service partnerships in 24 states. Most of the partnerships are funded through a few fee-for-service enterprises, such as online license renewals, and the company directs some of the profits from those services to development projects that don't bring in revenue, NIC's eGovernment Innovation Director Nolan Jones said.

Most of the NIC divisions that have built state government apps have focused on software programs that transmit information or services



from government to citizens and back, Nolan said. But a few state governments have begun working on apps to be used solely by government employees, he said.

Indiana for instance, has built an app that allows school bus inspectors to fill out inspection forms on their BlackBerrys and transmit them back to the office along with a scanned bar code to identify the bus and photos of any problems, he said.

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, which isn't a NIC member, has produced a series of apps, including the LakeFinder app, which gives smartphonesavvy outdoorspeople regularly updated information about lake depth, vegetation reports, and water quality and clarity.

Another Minnesota DNR app mashes smartphones' geo-location capabilities with agency data to point boaters out in the middle of one of the state's 11,482 lakes toward the nearest accessible boat landing.

"One of the real attractive parts of mobile is that you can have a computer with you in the outdoors," said Steve Lime, DNR's data and applications manager. "The DNR's got all this marketing focused around getting people into the outdoors to experience this and that. Now we can provide information to them on a device that doesn't tether them to a desk, so it's a match made in heaven."

In the future, Lime's office is looking at using mobile apps to crowd source reports about invasive species, washed-out state park trails and other things, he said. Those services likely will be tacked onto an existing app that's already being downloaded by outdoor enthusiasts, he said.

The department also is looking at ways to make its data easily accessible in a machine-readable form, Lime said, so private developers can use the data to build their own marketable apps.

The move to mobile hasn't been uniform. Florida just released its first state mobile app

in March while New York City has already launched a bevy of useful apps.

Utah's NIC division rolled out a few native apps when the craze first began, Utah Interactive marketing director Sara Watts said, including a look-up service for professional licenses. Native apps are downloaded from a smartphone's app store and live inside the phone rather than on the Web.

The state quickly shifted, though, to focusing on mobile-enabled websites, sites that reside on the Internet but are designed for easy reading on smartphones and tablets.

"We found the [native apps] didn't find large audiences," Watts said, "because the nature of most government transactions is you do them once a year. We also found it's really hard to maintain them because you're also doing online services so you can't focus all your time on apps."

Now, Utah Interactive is building a mobileenabled version of every new service it rolls out, she said, and has begun the process of creating mobile-enabled versions of existing services.

About 10 percent of the people who visit the state government's website, Utah.gov, are doing it on a mobile device now, she said. That's about a 400 percent increase from 2009, she said.

The agency's only recent foray into native apps is a driver's license practice test for teenagers.

"We'll do [native apps] again if we find something that really lends itself to being a mobile app," Watts said. "But now we're being very choosy. The driver's license exam really lends itself to being an offline app because it's something you can download, take with you and practice all the time and then delete it when you're done. It's nothing that's going to change rapidly."

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Spotlighting Information in Public Service Did you Know.....

TULSA DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS

FACTS: District Established...1939 (Upper Arkansas and Red River Basin Boundaries) 630 Employees plus contractor support for design and quality assurance, etc Civil Works:

38 lake projects plus 12 for flood management with 5 Locks (14, 15, 16, 17, 18)
8 hydropower projects in Oklahoma (R.S. Kerr, Webbers, Broken Bow, Eufaula, Denison, Keystone, Tenkiller, and Fort Gibson) with 22 main generating units with 585 megawatts capacity. Total output capacity of units is 585,000 kilowatts. Powerplants provide average annual benefit of \$128M. Powerplants generate average annual energy of 1.6B kilowatt-hours. Southwestern Power Administration markets the federal power.

Water Supply – 18 lakes in Oklahoma provide water supply to 104 customers serving over 2.2 million population (630 mgd) 37% of water is in District Lakes in OK. \$22.9M Annual NED Benefits Locally; 29 water supply projects (Optima Lake never filled but was an authorized water supply project); 120 water supply customers; 3,162,500 people served. Approximately 50% of Corps' water supply contracts.

Recreation - 267 recreation areas in 33 project. 20.6M visitors in FY04; 24M visitors in FY07 Navigation - 150 miles of navigation channel, 5 locks, 67 industries provide direct employment for over 3,700 people—these industries generate a total of \$2.1B in sales and \$492.7M in personal income; Annual freight savings for commodities shipped through Oklahoma Ports \$68M; 5M tons shipped on Oklahoma segment in 2003 with a net worth over \$1.5B—anticipate similar or higher results in 2004.

\$2.6B economic impact with potential for significant increase with future deepening from 9 to 12 feet. MKARNS \$1.3 million/day loss if closed.

Real Estate - There are some 9,000 leases in the

District's outgrant program.

We have leases with concessionaires who have expended millions of dollars to build marinas, restaurants and other recreational facilities on our lakes. Leases on our Corps lakes return nearly \$900,000 to local communities.

Tulsa District	50 (includes direct		
Concession Leases	marina leases)		
Other Recreation Leases	123 (includes third party		
	marina leases)		
Total	173		

<u>Levees</u>: Total 231 Miles of Levees and 59 miles of Channels

-ICW Program

17 Federally constructed/locally operated and maintained levees (207 mi.)

11 Federally constructed channels totaling 59 mi. -RIP Program

3 Non-Federal (privately constructed/operated and maintained) levees (7 mi.)

Corps Owned Operated Levees

8 USACE owned/operated levees (17 mi.) – Corps Operated and Maintained

Military Programs:

Military posts/bases: 2 Army/4 AF

IIS:

28 Indian Nations in OK

PANTEX/DOE

Border Fence Project

Mission: SWT plans and executes civil works, military programs, IIS and environmental programs for our district area and the Nation.

- Warfighting Research and development/technical solutions
- Water Resources care for aquatic Resources flood reduction management/hydropower/navigation/ recreation/water supply
- Environment restoration and stewardship. Goal: balance economic and environmental concerns
- Homeland Security emergency operations ESF-3...prime power, debris removal, etc
- Infrastructure operate and maintain 38 + 12 dams, MKARNS, 5 locks, hydropower, recreation, etc



Preparation Crucial When Facing Congress

By Bill Bransford

FEDERAL TIMES

8/15/11

Both chambers of Congress exercise oversight responsibility over executive branch agencies. Lately, it seems there are more oversight hearings, with career employees sometimes being called into the hot seat. It can be a scary proposition because of subpoenas, large hearing rooms, written and oral testimony, reporters and perhaps other unfamiliar occurrences.

A positive oversight experience requires coordination, preparation and candor. Most of all, the process must be taken seriously. Congress eventually will either get the information it wants, or it will make the career federal employee very uncomfortable.

First, assess whether the inquiry concerns a program review or personal exposure. If you believe you have exposure because of some specific act or omission, or which might make your agency so unhappy that it could propose discipline, take special care. Visit the general counsel's office to determine the tone and nature of support you have. It is almost always better to be a part of the agency's team in responding to Congress. If you are unsure whether you are on the team or you fear personal exposure, take protective steps, including seeking private legal advice.

In extreme cases, you could have exposure to criminal prosecution. Criminal exposure could require the careful exercise of constitutional rights. This should only be done with the advice of counsel, and your agency's general counsel is not in a position to provide such representation.

If the oversight is about a program or a political appointee, you still need to be careful. A program review gone bad can reflect poorly on you. A political appointee who appears to be under scrutiny may look for a vulnerable scapegoat.

You will probably learn of an oversight inquiry from your agency's legislative affairs office. If not, call that office right away. Don't make a move on the inquiry without coordinating with legislative affairs and make sure that office puts everyone in the loop. Contact the general counsel's office. If the matter has previously been examined by the agency's inspector general, make sure that office knows. It will help with preparation for the hearing, and it will avoid any big mistakes.

You must then prepare. Read everything. Anticipate everything. Learn what the other side is saying and prepare responses. Congressional hearings are relatively short, and you want to take advantage of the limited opportunity to make the best impression.

Try to have your legislative affairs office, general counsel's office and any relevant program offices work together to prepare the presentation, anticipate questions and develop appropriate answers. Research and data that is responsive to the oversight must be complete and accurate.

Learn about the committee members. What are their interests? Which constituencies will the member most likely respect? Has the member had a concern about the issue under review? Develop your testimony to assure it is as helpful as possible, to the agency and the oversight committee.

The legislative affairs office should know about rules and practices of the committee that wants your testimony. How many copies of testimony are to be printed? How many minutes is the opening statement? These questions should be answered before any formal responses are given to the committee.

The surest way to lose is to fail to be truthful. That said, there is more than one way to give a truthful and complete answer. Care should be taken to assure that truthful answers present you and your agency in the best light.

Congressional hearings are also platforms for Congress members to make statements to their constituents. If it appears the member is only using the hearing as a means to state his opinion, a response is not necessarily required.

Expect follow-up questions. Also, many who testify before Congress promise follow-up information. Make sure questions are answered, and information is provided in a timely manner.

Work with the legislative affairs experts and you will make the best of congressional oversight, an experience that is not meant to be pleasant or necessarily career-enhancing.

http://blogs.federaltimes.com/federal-law/2011/08/15/preparation-crucial-when-facing-congress/

FEMA STATEMENT AUGUST 23, 2011

Statement from FEMA Spokesperson Rachel Racusen on Earthquake



WASHINGTON-Federal Emergency Management Agency Spokesperson Rachel Racusen issued the following statement on the earthquake that impacted the mid Atlantic Region and other states today:

"According to United States Geological Survey (USGS), the mid Atlantic Region of the United States experienced a 5.9 magnitude earthquake. FEMA, along with the entire federal family, is closely monitoring the situation and is in close contact and coordination with our partners in the National Capital Region and our state partners. Though there are no early reports of major damage or requests for assistance at this time, preliminary damage assessments are currently taking place in all affected states and we will continue to work closely with their emergency management officials.

"Due to overload of cell phone usage, there are reports of cell phone congestion. We request that members of the public use email or text messages if possible to communicate for the next few hours, except in cases of emergency, so that emergency officials can continue to receive and respond to urgent calls. We encourage everyone in the affected areas to listen to the direction of their local officials. More information will be provided as it becomes available."

FEMA's Ready.gov website offers guidance on what to do to stay safe in the event of an earthquake.

Follow FEMA online at http://blog.fema.gov, www.twitter.com/fema, www.facebook.com/fema, and www.youtube.com/fema. Also, follow Administrator Craig Fugate's activities at www.twitter.com/craigatfema.

The social media links provided are for reference only. FEMA does not endorse any non-government websites, companies or applications.

FEMA's mission is to support our citizens and first responders to ensure that as a nation we work together to build, sustain, and improve our capability to prepare for, protect against, respond to, recover from, and mitigate all hazards.





UPCOMING EVENTS

September 2011

Sep 5, 2011 Labor Day

Sep 8, 2011 Leadership FEB Forum

All Day Fort Sill

POC: FEB Office, 405-231-4167

Sep 12, 2011 Agency Visits-Enid\

POC: FEB Office, 405-231-4167

Sep 14, 2011 Mayors Committee on Disability

07:30 a.m. Concerns

St. Luke's , 222 NW 15th, OKC POC: Diana Hubbard, 405-297-4544

Sep 15, 2011 Federal Employees Care Council

3:00 p.m. Federal Transfer Center

POC: Tom Burton, 405-954-0625

Sep 19, 2011 FEB Conf Call w/OPM

1:00 p.m. POC: FEB Office, 405-231-4167

Sep 20-22, 2011 FEMA Region VI Conference

All Day with FEBs/FEAs

POC: FEB Office, 405-231-4167

INSPIRATION CORNER

Good Rules to Follow: Learn to get along with people. Learn to exhibit more patience than any other man you know. Learn to respect other men's ideas and opinions. Learn to think problems through to the end. Learn to try to put yourself in the other fellow's place. Be democratic. Be loyal. Cultivate cheerfulness. Work.

—Hary J. Klingler

True vision is always twofold. It involves emotional comprehension as well as physical perception.

-Ross Parmenter

Your Federal Executive Board

"Federal Executive Boards (FEBs) are generally responsible for improving coordination among federal activities and programs in...areas outside of Washington, D.C...FEBs support and promote national initiatives of the President and the administration and respond to the local needs of the federal agencies and the community." (GAO-04-384)

We applaud the efforts of the Oklahoma FEB Executive Policy Council members who ensure information is provided to direct our activities and efforts:

- Kirby Brown, Deputy Director, Fires Excellence Center, Fort Sill
- Laura Culberson, Director of Staff, Tinker AFB
- Julie Gosdin, District Director, US Postal Service
- Jerry Hyden, Director, US Department of Housing and Urban Development
- Hector Ledezma, Warden, Federal Correctional Institution
- Dottie Overal, Director, Small Business Administration
- Lindy Ritz, Director, FAA Mike Monroney Aeronautical Center
- Betty Tippeconnie, Superintendent, BIA-Concho Agency
- David Wood, Director, VA Medical Center

This newsletter is published monthly as a cost-effective tool for communicating events and issues of importance to the federal community in Oklahoma. If you have news of interest, please fax to the FEB Office at (405) 231-4165 or email to LeAnnJenkins@gsa.gov no later than the 15th of each month.

Officers:

Chair: Jon Worthington

Administrator, Southwestern Power

Administration, Tulsa

Vice-Chair: Adrian Andrews

Special Agent in Charge,

US Secret Service, Oklahoma City

Staff:

Director: LeAnn Jenkins

Assistant: Vacant



Leadership FEB participants from past years gather

Participants from this year and past year's Leadership FEB classes had the opportunity to come together on August 25, 2011 for a day of training and sharing best practices and ideas.

As employees in the federal sector face extremely wide-sweeping change, this group of federal leaders gathered to share information with each other in order to develop creative solutions on how to work smarter.



Brad Grant, NOAA, 2009class & Bill Morgan, FAA, 2010class

The participants of all Leadership FEB classes had the opportunity to participate in this day of training and "re-connect" with fellow classmates, as well as participants of other year classes.

Initially, there was suppose to be a trainer to add to the day; however, due to an emergency, the trainer cancelled 36 hours before the event. In the usual fashion of the Oklahoma Federal Executive Board, leaders pitched in and provided timely training on topics that seemed to fashion the direction of the day for this room full of leaders!

A big thanks goes out to:

CDR David Nikodym, Warden Hector Ledezma, and Wade Crews!

CMDR David Nikodym who served as a facilitator for the exercises, as well as providing the session on "Characteristics of Leaders" in the morning.





LeAnn Jenkins, Executive Director of the Federal Executive Board presents CMDR Nikodym with his FEMA Excellence Series, COOP Practitioner, Level I certificate.

As a participant of Leadership FEB 2008 Class, and past Chairman of our FEB, CMDR Nikodym returned to participate in this day of activities!

LeAnn provided a workshop, entitled



Change Style
Indicators,
sharing
information on
the various
styles of
responding to

change and how, as leaders, we should be aware of the strengths and pitfalls of various styles. This impacts the productivity of our organizations and can assist in the progress and speed of implementing change within the organization.



Leadership FEB participants from past years gather (cont'd)

Warden Hector Ledezma presented a segment on The Importance of Ethics in Leadership. Utilizing examples of how lapses of ethics have derailed careers, he spoke of the importance of leading as though every action would be in the morning paper.



Followed with an interactive exchange of ideas, questions, and sharing of information, this session was animated and left the participants wanting more.

Wade Crews presented Conflict Management and the importance of Communication.



The participants

Comments from participants: "Nik's leadership characteristics were invaluable for developing leaders. Good stories of ethic derailment by Hector. The conflict

management by Wade was excellent! The change style indicator was very useful and insightful."



When asked what lasted from their Leadership FEB experience, responses included:

Problem solving in alternate situations; Lessons from the books & relationships formed with colleagues; Guidance/advice of classmates; Networking with other agencies; Looking at the big picture; Look at your people and their abilities; Sense of communicating among Fed agencies; Perspective-Agency coordination and relationship connections; Excellence is the Standard, not the Goal; Friendship and keeping informed of FEB thru newsletters

Some shared that they forward the FEB newsletter to their workforce to share the snippets of articles outside their workplace and to keep employees informed of leadership challenges, as well as information useful to their retirement decisions and careers.





SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
	Septer	nber 201	1	1	2	3
4	5 LABOR DAY	6	7	8 Leadership FEB at Fort Sill	9	10
11	12 Agency Visits- Enid	13	14 7:30 Mayors Committee	15 3:00 FECC	16	17
18	19 Nat'l FEB Conf	20 FEMA Regio	21 on VI Mtg w/F	EBs, Denton TX	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

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