FEMA

Disaster Emergency Communications Division

Joint Field Office Disaster Emergency Communications Branch

June 22, 2009

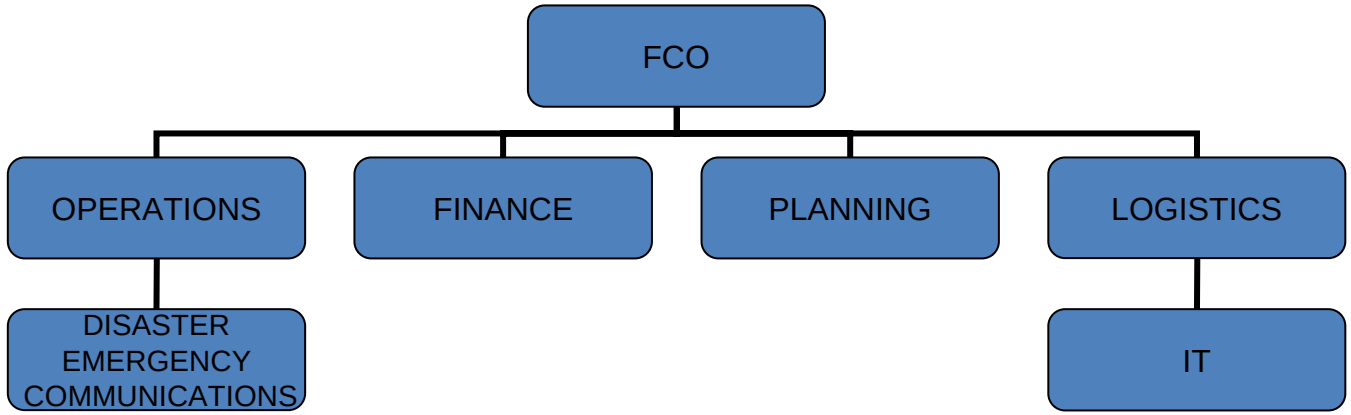
Improving JFO Communications Support

- DEC Division coordinated with FCC and NCS to update the Emergency Support Function (ESF) #2 SOP to establish the DEC Branch within the Joint Field Office (JFO) under the Operations Section.
- The NCS, FEMA DEC, and the ESF-2 Support Agencies have identified a cadre of personnel to serve as the DEC Branch Director in the JFO.
- DEC represents significant shift in the Federal government's organization/integration of emergency communications at an incident:
  - NRF shifts significant portion of communications to operations for public safety and emergency responder support
  - Deploys assets/personnel for communications support at an incident
- DEC is coordinated through single focal point-JFO Operations Section:
  - Reports to the JFO Operations Section Chief
  - Provides tactical communications services to the FCO, Federal response teams, and State and local agencies
  - Executes plans for effective use of communications resources
  - Coordinates restoration of telecommunications infrastructure

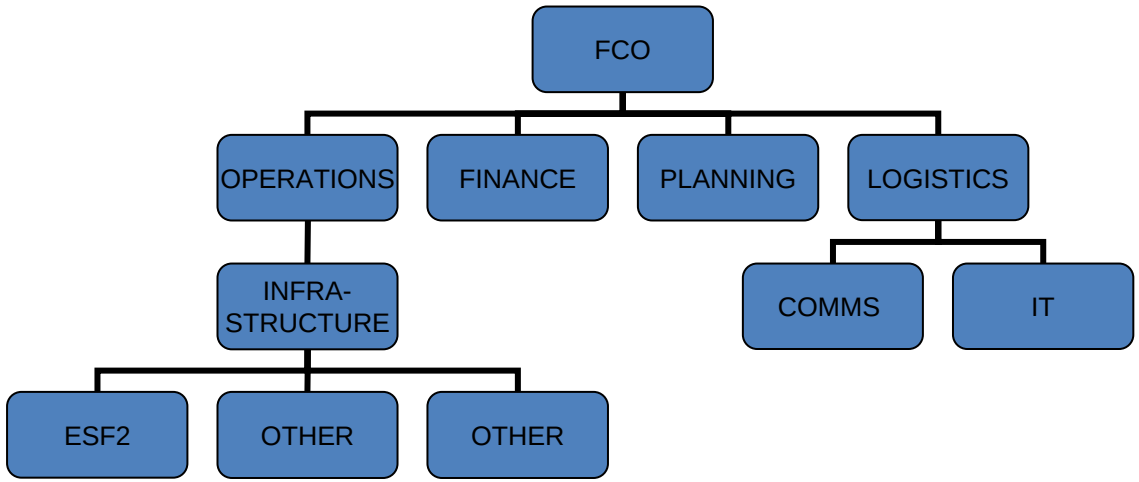
JFO Disaster Emergency Communications Branch

DEC Communications Branch was elevated in the JFO Organization Structure and now reports directly to Operations Section Chief

NEW Structure



OLD Structure



Tactical Communications Group

FEMA leads the Tactical Communications Group within the DEC Branch

- Consists of three units:
  - Communications Interoperability Unit;
  - Communications Operations and Coordination Unit; and
  - Wireless Communications Unit
- Is responsible to the JFO Coordination Group for effective communications planning and execution
- Develops and executes a communications plan to make the most effective use of the communications resources assigned to the incident
- Provides tactical communications services to the PFO, FCO, and the federal response team
- Coordinates the restoration of public safety communications, PSAPs, EAS warning systems, and first-responder networks
- Requests the deployment of FEMA Mobile Emergency Response Support (MERS) through FEMA TECB Chief

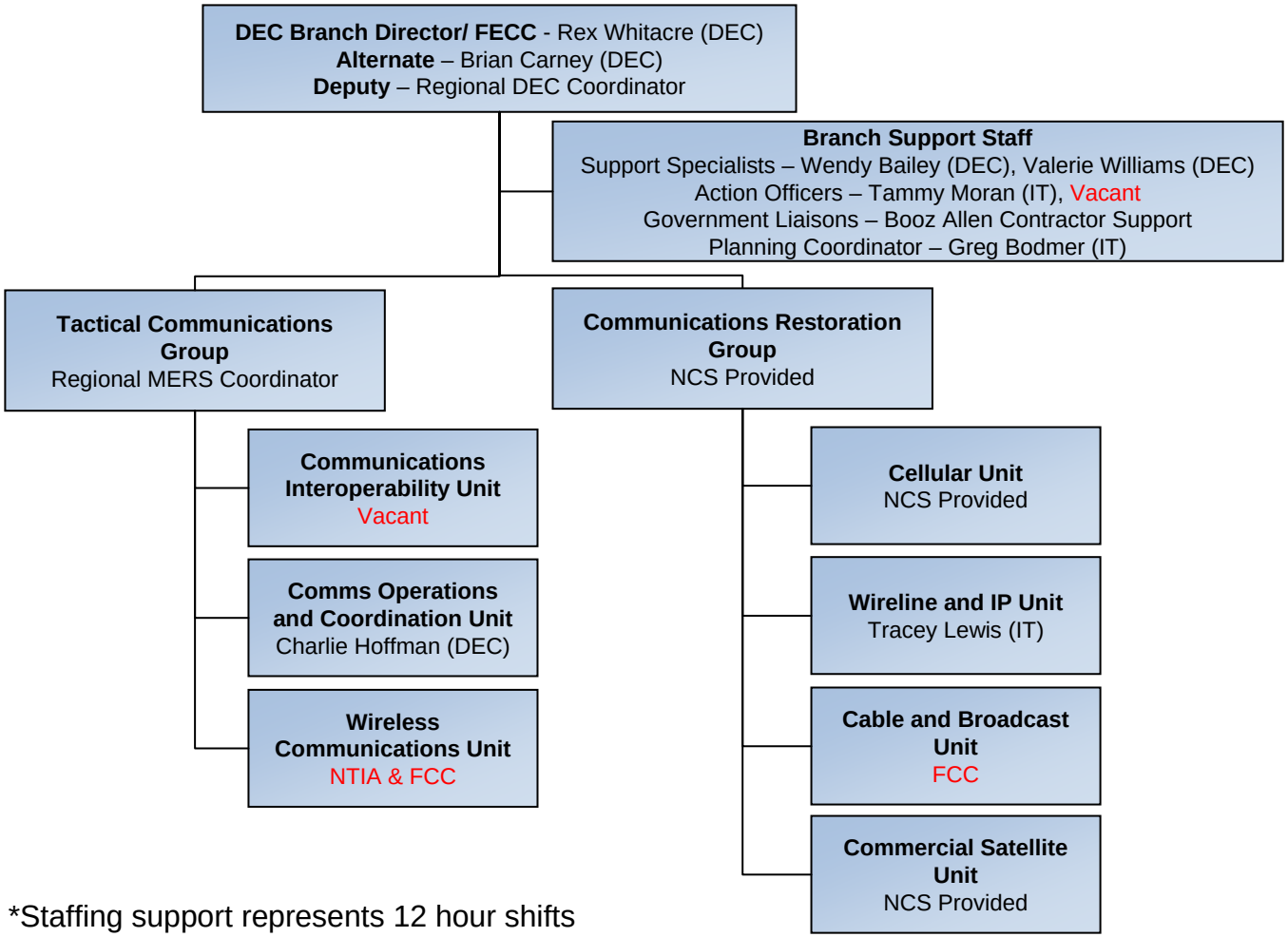
Communications Restoration Group

NCS leads the Communications Restoration Group within the DEC Branch

- Consists of four units:
  - Cellular Unit;
  - Wireline and Internet Protocol Unit;
  - Cable and Broadcast Unit; and
  - Commercial Satellite Unit
- Coordinates the long-term restoration of the commercial telecommunications infrastructure and supports Federal agencies in procuring and coordinating National Security and Emergency Preparedness (NS/EP) telecommunications services
- Conveys Federal, State, local, and Tribal government requirements for commercial communications capabilities
- Assists the telecommunications industry as needed to ensure access for repair crews, availability of fuel, and security for restoration teams
- Determines the impact to, vulnerability, and availability of commercial communications capabilities (e.g., cellular, wireline, satellite, cable)

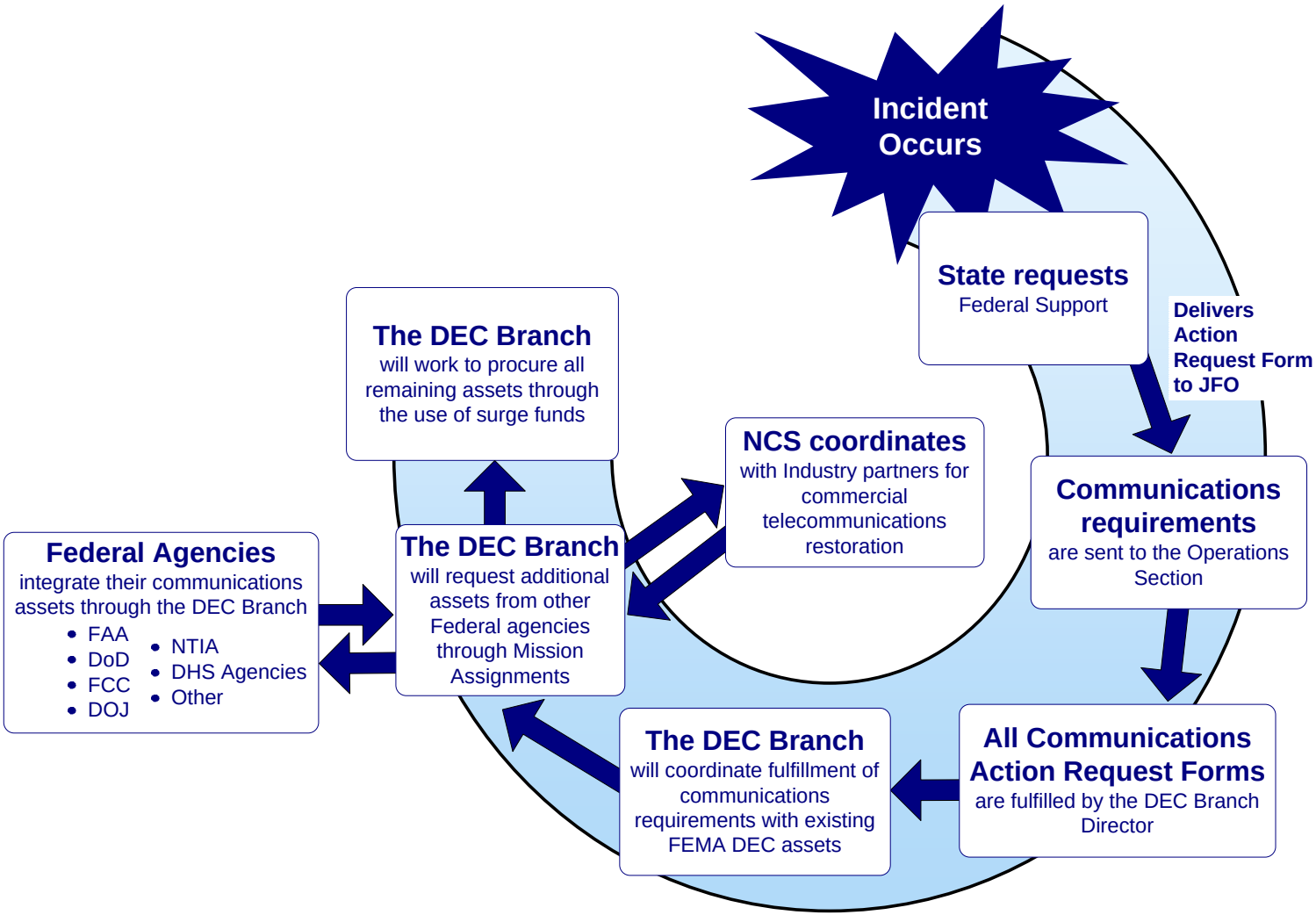
Staffing Support for National Team 1

DEC Branch Director/ FECC is designated by FEMA and NCS.



*Staffing support represents 12 hour shifts

JFO DEC Branch and Federal Integration



DEC & FCC Partnership

- In 2006, the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau of the FCC and the Disaster Operations Directorate of FEMA formed a new partnership.
- FCC acts as FEMA's spectrum management and communications experts
- Jointly developed Project Roll Call
- FCC developed four Pre-Scripted Mission Assignments.
  - Deploy FCC manager with the Incident Management Assistant Team (IMAT) to conduct initial impact assessment (Project Roll Call)
  - Deploy FCC personnel to support DEC tactical groups in the JFO to conduct activities such as on-scene damage assessments, spectrum, and restoration of services
  - Deploy Department of Defense (DoD) mobile self-sustained vehicle (Hurricane Gustav and Ike)
  - Deploy FCC personnel to conduct logistical coordination assistance to "for-profit" communications companies

Pre-Deployment Conference Call

The purpose of the Pre-Declaration Conference Call is to determine requirements and begin securing assets necessary for standing-up a JFO

- The Pre-Declaration Conference Call is initiated and led by the Regional LOG and/or IT Branch
- Participants on the call include:
  - Regional IT and DEC staff
  - MERS
  - DRT
  - National DEC Coordinator
- Participants work through pre-developed decision trees, and agree upon pre-defined requirements
- Outputs generated from the call are:
  - Confirm timeframe for anticipated incident
  - Confirm actions required on the DEC activation checklist
  - Identify surge requirements
  - Develop surge and response plan
  - Authorize assets and begin the surge response
  - Identify JFO requirements and the number of circuits that will be necessary

FCC Roles and Responsibilities

FCC and NTIA support the Wireless Communications Unit within the Tactical Communications Group

- Manages the electromagnetic spectrum, including frequency management
- Processes request for frequency assignments and Special Temporary Authority
- Resolves frequency use conflicts
- Deploy Project Roll Call when requested
- Coordinates all assignments through the JFO DEC Branch Director

DEC HQ Points of Contact

DEC PROGRAMS

Charles Hoffman

Chief

202-212-4422 or Charles.Hoffman2@dhs.gov

TECB

Eric Edwards

TEC Branch Chief

202-646-2979 or Eric.edwards@dhs.gov

RECCWG

Brian Carney

National RECC Coordinator

202-212-4419 or brian.carney1@dhs.gov

STATE/REGIONAL PLANNING

Frank Lalley

Special Assistant to the Assistant Administrator

202-402-0847 or frank.lalley@dhs.gov

NATIONAL RESPONSE COORDINATOR

Rex Whitacre

Chief

540-723-8000 or rex.whitacre@dhs.gov

Regional DEC Points of Contact

Region I
Norm Brown
Regional DEC – RECC Coordinator
norm.brown@dhs.gov
978-461-5357 (office)
857-350-0284 (cell)

Region II
Sean Kielty
Regional DEC – RECC Coordinator
sean.kielty@dhs.gov
212-680-8631 (office)

Region III
John MacLean
Regional DEC – RECC Coordinator
John.MacLean@dhs.gov
215-931-5592 (office)
215-360-1961 (cell)

Region IV
Vincent Tex Boyer
Regional DEC – RECC Coordinator
Vincent.Boyer@dhs.gov
770-220-3104 (office)
770-789-9442 (cell)

Region V
Kenneth Howdeshell
Regional DEC – RECC Coordinator
kenneth.howdeshell@dhs.gov
312-718-6456 (office)

Region VI
Greg Boren
Regional DEC – RECC Coordinator
Gregory.Boren@dhs.gov
940-898-5287 (office)
940-235-5636 (cell)

Region VII
John Myers II
Regional DEC – RECC Coordinator
John.myersII@dhs.gov
816-283-7090 (office)
202-306-7606 (cell)

Region VIII
Dennis Fisher
Regional DEC – RECC Coordinator
Dennis.fisher@dhs.gov
303-235-4736 (office)
303-808-0033 (cell)

Region IX
David Benoit
Regional DEC – RECC Coordinator
david.benoit@dhs.gov
510-627-7268 (office)
510-289-0116 (cell)

Region X
Terry Knight
Regional DEC – RECC Coordinator
terry.knight@dhs.gov
425-487-4758 (office)
425-503-2610 (cell)