MEMORANDUM FOR: FEMA Regional Administrators

FROM: Robert J. Fenton  
Assistant Administrator for Response

SUBJECT: Change in Terminology for National and Regional Watches

The purpose of this memorandum is to change the terminology used when referring to the National and Regional Watch Centers. As you know, we are in the process of standardizing operations for the National and Regional Watch Centers, the National Response Coordination Center (NRCC) and the Regional Response Coordination Centers (RRCC). This will better align the functions of these organizations from the national to the regional levels and synchronize properly with emerging FEMA doctrine. An important aspect of this standardization is to clearly differentiate the functions and responsibilities of the Watch Centers from the functions and responsibilities of the NRCC and the RRCCs.

While some Regional Watch Centers and RRCCs are co-located, they have separate and distinct functions. The Watch Centers are responsible for steady state monitoring of national and regional events and potential incidents or threats that may necessitate activation of response operations. In contrast, the NRCC and RRCCs are responsible for supporting response operations upon activation.

To ensure that these functions are properly identified and delineated, the following terminology will be used, effectively immediately:

- RRCC Watch Centers will now be identified as **Regional Watch Centers (RWCs)**. Individual Regional Watch Centers will be identified by the number of the Region and the abbreviation WC (i.e. RIIWC, RIIIWC, etc.).
- NRCC Watch Center will now be identified as the **National Watch Center (NWC)**.
- NRCC and RRCC terminology will remain unchanged.

This terminology change will assist in properly aligning the RWCs and the NWC within the Response Directorate. Please do not hesitate to contact me at (202) 646-3692 or Russ Washington at (202) 646-7940, if you have any questions.

Cc: William L. Carwile, III, Associate Administrator for Response and Recovery
Regional Response Division Directors