

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release:

June 11, 2011

Contact:

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**DECKER APPOINTED TO NATIONAL COUNCIL,
ATTENDS INAUGURAL MEETING AT THE WHITE HOUSE**

(Washington, DC) – The inaugural meeting of the National Mass Care Council was held Friday (6/10) at The White House. Allen County’s director of Homeland Security & Emergency Management, Russ Decker, attended the daylong event as one of 18 persons appointed to a term on the newly formed Council (NMCC). The council, co-led by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), American Red Cross, and the National Voluntary Organizations Active in Disasters (VOAD), will serve as the steering body for the development and promotion of a National Mass Care Strategy.

Decker is representing the National Association of Counties (NACo) and the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) on the Council. A National Mass Care Strategy will establish common goals, foster collaborative planning and identify resources needed to build national mass care capacity, and will focus on individual or congregate temporary shelters; fixed or mobile feeding operations; relief supplies distribution; family reunification; health and/or mental health services; and recovery assistance.

In addition to providing leadership, advocacy, and interagency coordination, the National Mass Care Council will facilitate interagency mass care planning efforts, encourage involvement by the private sector, and assess mass care need and capabilities nationwide.

Decker has served as director of the Allen County EMA since 1998. He is past national president (2008-09) of IAEM and past president of the Emergency Management Association of Ohio (2002-2003). He holds a Master of Science degree from Tiffin University with undergraduate studies from the University of Northwestern Ohio and The Ohio State University. He is currently pursuing his PhD in Public Safety Administration at Capella University in Minneapolis, MN.

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