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## News Release

### IAEM-USA Announces the 2021 IAEM-USA Uniformed Services Emergency Manager of the Year Award

**Oct. 15, 2021 (Falls Church, Va.)** – The IAEM-USA Awards & Recognition Committee of the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) is pleased to announce the winner of the IAEM-USA 2021 Uniformed Services Emergency Manager of the Year Award. The award will be presented at the Monday Networking Luncheon and Awards Ceremony on Oct. 18, 2021, at the 69th IAEM Annual Conference & EMEX, in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

The winner of the 2021-IAEM-USA Uniformed Services Emergency Manager of the Year is Commander Melanie Burnham.

CDR Burnham serves as incident management section chief for the United States Coast Guard PACAREA Operations Division. She led PACAREA as the AC DACDR through two storm seasons, including 4 hurricanes and 3 typhoons. She also led PACAREA in the proactive situational monitoring and implementation of an AC through an unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic beginning in January 2020.

CDR Burnham coordinated support to Coast Guard units and personnel significantly impacted during the wildfire season by key management of 100+ rapidly developing incidents throughout California, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and Montana. Through her expert knowledge of contingency preparedness, she developed and oversaw exercise design and logistics as well as assigned controllers and coaches to fill critical roles throughout AOR Advisor to PACAREA 2020 & 2022 National Level Exercise/Spill of National significance planning teams.

The **IAEM-USA Uniformed Services Military Emergency Manager of the Year Award** is for the individual serving in Uniformed Services of the United States (active duty, guard, or reservist) performing emergency management as his/her primary function.

*IAEM-USA, the nation's largest emergency management professional association, is a non-profit professional organization representing more than 5,000 emergency management and homeland security professionals for local communities, state and federal disaster officials, private sector, non-governmental organizations, and others involved in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from all types of disasters including acts of terrorism. IAEM provides access to the largest network of emergency management experts who can provide advice and assistance; the Certified Emergency Manager program; annual scholarships; a comprehensive monthly newsletter; and more.*

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