

**Paul Downing**  
**Director of STOF Department of Emergency Management**  
**Adjunct Instructor**

**Speaker Bio:**

Mr. Paul Downing is a citizen of the Passamaquoddy Tribe of Indian Township, Maine, and a former Council Member of the Passamaquoddy Joint Tribal Council. Hired by the Seminole Tribe of Florida to be their Director for the Department of Emergency Management in October of 2021, Paul is applying the knowledge and skills to protect a very diverse Tribe that is spread across the State of Florida in 7 distinct reservations. Prior to the move from Maine to Florida, Paul operated his own private company “Bear Tracks EM Solutions”, Paul was hired by the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Pleasant Point where he served in multiple capacities including Emergency Manager, Tribal Coordinating Officer, and Tribal Authorized Representative for the Executive Branch. He was instrumental in the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Pleasant Point being the only Tribe in Maine to enter a Direct recipient role with FEMA during the current pandemic and the first Tribe in New England to request a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration.

Mr. Downing also serves on the FEMA National Advisory Council as the Tribal Executive Official Representative serving his 2d term under two different Cabinet’s Administrators, President Trump’ and now President Biden.. Leaving Maine, Paul resigned as the Chairman of the Maine Indian Tribes State Commission, however, he continues to serve as the Co-Chair of the National Congress of American Indians Public Safety and Justice Committee, and the Co-Chair of the United South and Eastern Tribes Homeland Security and Emergency Services Committee.

Prior to working for his sister Tribe at Pleasant Point, Paul was the Emergency Manager, Tribal Hazard Mitigation Officer, and Public Safety Coordinator for the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Indian Township. During his time with the Indian Township Tribal Government, he authored The Emergency Operations/All Hazards Plans, the Continuity of Government Plan, the THIRA, and the Hazard Mitigation Plan for Indian Township.

Paul retired from the United States Army in 2005, filling the role of a Field First Sergeant and A Large Production Station Commander with the Bangor, Maine Recruiting Company. Assigned to USAREC, he spent his last 8 years recruiting for the US Army filling almost every role in the career field: Recruiter, Small Station Commander, Guidance Counselor, Operations Sergeant, Large Station Commander, and Field First Sergeant. His prior assignments were in the Infantry being assigned to the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne in Kentucky, the United Nations Command in Seoul, South Korea, the Presidential Honor Guard in Washington, DC, and the MDW Air Assault School in Ft Belvoir, VA.

Mr. Downing holds a Bachelor of Science in Homeland Security and Emergency Management from Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, Arizona. He has also graduated from the FEMA Basic Academy, FEMA Advanced Academy, and all the Tribal Curriculum Courses. Paul also completed FEMA Basic Academy Train-the-Trainer Course, and completed an extensive list of independent studies courses.