



Applying a Complexity Framework: Learning from the COVID-19 Response for Novel EM Professional Approaches to Complex Events

March 24th from 2:30pm-3:30pm ET

Presented by: **Glen Woodbury**, Director of the Naval Postgraduate School's Center for Homeland Defense and Security

Presentation Abstract: The preparedness and response to the COVID-19 emergency certainly demonstrated many characteristics of a complex adaptive system as multiple agencies, interests, priorities, biases, and equities interacted in both predictable and surprising ways. Traditional doctrine and practices worked in some efforts but were inadequate in many others. This session will look at the COVID-19 response through a complexity theory lens to derive new methods and sense making tools for future events. First, the session will determine if the COVID-19 response fits within the characteristics of a complex system and the lessons that analysis provides. Then, the session will explore the use of a sense-making framework against the COVID-19 response to explore how the response may have differed with non-traditional thinking. Then, these findings will be used to propose new ways to prepare for and respond to complex events.

Speaker Bio: Glen Woodbury is the Director of the Naval Postgraduate School's Center for Homeland Defense and Security. He served as the Director of the Emergency Management Division for the State of Washington from 1998 - 2004. Glen Woodbury served in the US Army until he began his

emergency management career as an Operations Officer in 1992. Mr. Woodbury holds a BA Degree in Engineering Sciences from Lafayette College and an MA Degree in Security Studies from the Naval Postgraduate School.