

Introduction

My name is Rodney Andreasen, and I am submitting my application for IAEM-USA Region 4 Florida State Representative position. I have been a Certified Emergency Manager (CEM) for nearly 15 years with the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM). I was an Emergency Management Director for 20 years, from 2001-2020, in the state of Florida and served 21 years, 1978-1999, in the United States Air Force prior to that in various specialties and assignments. I currently serve as the Vice Chair of the Faith Based Caucus for IAEM and have done so for approximately three years.

Below you will find the key qualities and competencies that I believe align perfectly with the demands of the critical position.

Proven Leadership in Crisis Situations

A defining quality of an effective emergency manager is the ability to lead under pressure and provide guidance to agencies and personnel in response to numerous threats. My background includes extensive experience managing and responding to high-pressure scenarios, ensuring that objectives are met efficiently and effectively resulting in the protection of life and property. As a local emergency manager, we were tasked to be on 24/7 call and required to respond to almost all incidents that may exceed a single individual response.

Starting with the terrorist attacks during 9/11, I was a member of the Florida Regional Domestic Security Task Force (RDSTF) organization providing advice as an emergency manager assisting in the preparation for possible impacts. Before retiring, I became the Co-Chair of the Prevention and Awareness group for the RDSTF.

During my time as the emergency manager, I prepared, directed and responded to numerous incidents that impacted my community. In 2004, I directed preparations for Hurricane Ivan that eventually struck Pensacola, FL. However, because of the size of the storm, impacts from the system were felt in my local community. As we had predicted, tornadoes spun off the system and would eventually impact the county. We had previously warned the residents of this fact, and it was proved correct in issuing the orders that resulted in no loss of life. The tornado that spun off the storm killed four people in the county south of our location; however, the tornado caused more property damage to our county as a result. The tornado heavily damaged two trailer parks, two housing subdivisions as well as the local Federal Prison. Additionally, a facility that the emergency management office was urged to use, and was refused by the Director, as a hurricane shelter was destroyed by a direct hit from the tornado. It was determined that

most people, if they had been in it, would not have survived. The building was not a certified facility for such use.

Since 2001, the Emergency Management Director had warned of the possibility of a large category storm, Category 2-3, impacting the area and that the county must prepare for that eventuality. Because the county was located 35 miles from the coast, local residents, and leadership, felt this would not happen as there was too much land mass to interfere with the storm. Regardless, as the Emergency Manager, I continued to warn and plan for just such an event. On 10 Oct 2018, Hurricane Michael slammed into the Gulf Coast not as Category 2 or 3, but a Category 5 storm; our county was hit with Category 4 impacts. Because of prior efforts and planning, the EOC was able to maintain communication and direct operations through much of the storm. The challenge of providing directions, as well as making decisions, for 50000 citizens' lives, has provided me, I feel, with the necessary skills to address the issues that will arise as a representative of IAEM for the state of Florida. During my time as the Emergency Management Director, I responded to over 15 large and small train derailments, numerous flooding events and various other incidents that included flooding, aircraft crashes and HAZMAT accidents and releases.

Additionally, with recent events in the Middle East, as well as the increased threat to the local communities in the state from terrorism, I feel my previous military background and education can address those threats and challenges as well. While in the military, I was the Non-Commissioned Officer In Charge (NCOIC) of a small unit anti-terrorism program providing training, as well as classified and non-classified briefings, for unit personnel. This aspect provided me with a unique view of anti-terrorism information, functions and protective measures. Additionally, in 2010, I was selected to attend the Naval Postgraduate School Center for Homeland Security and Defense (CHDS) graduating with my third masters' degree in Homeland Security and Defense. These abilities enable me to anticipate challenges and prepare effective strategies that minimize risk and maximize safety in the event of an incident.

Relevant Training and Certifications

To succeed in emergency management, training and education are critical and to this end, I have pursued qualifications that directly support my candidacy, such as:

Education

- Master of Arts, Security Studies, Center for Homeland Security and Defense, Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, CA
- Master of Science, Justice and Public Safety, Auburn University – Montgomery. Montgomery, AL.
- Master of Science, Technical and Occupational Education, University of Southern Mississippi. Hattiesburg, MS.
- Bachelor of Science, University of the State of New York, Regents College. Albany, NY.
- Associate of Applied Science, Instructor of Technology and Military Science, Community College of the Air Force. Maxwell AFB, Montgomery, AL.
- Associate of Applied Science, Industrial Security, Community College of the Air Force. Maxwell AFB, Montgomery, AL.

Specialty Training

- Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program (HSEEP) - FDEM, Tallahassee, FL
- Incident Response to Terrorist Bombings Train the Trainer - New Mexico Tech, Socorro, NM
- Prevention of Suicide Bombing Incidents Train the Trainer - New Mexico Tech, Socorro, NM
- Building Design for Homeland Security, Emergency Management Institute, Emmitsburg, MD
- Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program Train the Trainer (HSEEP) - FDEM, Tallahassee, FL
- Continuity of Operations Plans-Train the Trainer-FDEM, Tallahassee, FL
- Multi-Hazards Emergency Planning for Schools Train the Trainer – EMI Emmitsburg, MD
- FEMA Instructor Certification Course-Anniston, AL
- FEMA Professional Development Series
- FEMA Advanced Professional Development Series
- Enhanced Incident Management Unified Command Course – Texas Engineering Extension Service, College Station, TX

- Weapons of Mass Destruction Technical Emergency Response Training (TERT) (Live Agent Training) Course - Center for Domestic Preparedness, Anniston, AL
- Emergency Response to Hazardous Materials - Technician Level – FDEM, Tallahassee, FL
- CIKR Asset Protection Technical Assistance Program (CAPTAP) Florida Department of Law Enforcement, Tallahassee, FL.
- Bomb-Making Materials Awareness Program, Department of Homeland Security, Tallahassee, FL.
- State and Local Anti-Terrorism Train-the-Trainer Training Program (SLATT) (2014)
- Readiness: Training Identification and Preparedness-Planning – Texas Engineering Extension Service, College Station, TX (2016)
- Instructor Development Workshop NCBRT (2016) – Texas Engineering Extension Service, College Station, TX (2016)
- Bomb Materials Awareness Program (BMAP) Community Liaison (2018)
- Bomb Materials Awareness Program (BMAP) Administrator/Trainer (2018)
- Active Shooter Program, Armour College (2019)
- Protective Detail Specialist (PDS), Select International, Tampa FL (2019)
- Civilian Response To Active Shooter Events (CRASE) Trainer (2019)
- ALIVE Active Shooter Survival Training Trainer (2019)
- Shopping Center Security Terrorism Awareness Training Program, National Center for Security Research and Training (2020)

Certifications

- Florida Unarmed "D" Licensed Security Officer
- Florida Armed "G" Licensed Security Officer
- Protective Detail Specialist, Select International (2019)
- Certified Emergency Manager (CEM) International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) Exp (2030)
- Florida Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Practitioner (FCP), Florida Crime Prevention Institute (Exp 2026)
- Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design Professional Designation, National Institute of Crime Prevention (NCPI) (Exp 2028)
- Certified Security Assessment Specialist, American Crime Prevention Institute (ACPI) (No Exp)
- NFPA 3000 Active Shooter/Hostile Event Response Program Specialist, National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) (2021)

- Certified School Security Specialist, American Crime Prevention Institute (ACPI) (No Exp)
- Certified School Security Assessment Specialist American Crime Prevention Institute (ACPI) (No Exp)
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These credentials demonstrate my commitment to gaining the technical knowledge required to excel in this field, as well as others, and to protect others.

Conclusion

In summary, I feel, because of the increasing threat we face from exterior and interior actors, there will be a need to coordinate with other organizations to coordinate, prevent and respond faster and better to emerging known and unknown issues. That is what I want to accomplish for the state of Florida, as well as the organization, to meet the threat. I want to break down silos for a clear exchange of ideas and information to support team efforts. I feel my combination of leadership experience, strategic planning capabilities, communication skills, relevant certifications, and adaptability positions me as an outstanding candidate for the IAEM-USA Region 4 Florida State Representative. I am eager to bring my expertise and dedication to the position, ensuring that we are prepared to face any challenge and safeguard the community effectively.