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PRESS RELEASE

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DHS INSPECTOR GENERAL ESTABLISHES OFFICE FOR DISASTER ASSISTANCE

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Washington, DC – The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Inspector General, Richard L. Skinner, announced the establishment of the Office of Disaster Assistance Oversight (DAO). The office was established to provide a continuous oversight of disaster related activities nationwide and will be responsible, on a permanent basis, for the work previously conducted by the Office of Gulf Coast Hurricane Recovery.

OVERSIGHT

"The creation of this office will strengthen our ability to react quickly, efficiently, and effectively to a variety of disasters and further advance our collaborative efforts with the federal Inspector General Community, through the President's Council on Integrity and Efficiency and the Executive Council on Integrity and Efficiency," said Inspector General Skinner.

Matt Jadacki, who will serve as the Deputy Inspector General for DAO, and previously served as the Special Inspector General for Gulf Coast Hurricane Recovery, will lead the office. The DAO will maintain offices in Washington, DC; Atlanta, Georgia; Denton, Texas; and Oakland, California. In addition, it will continue its presence in the Gulf Coast region at FEMA's long-term recovery centers.

"I'm both excited and honored to be able to continue the work of the Gulf Coast Hurricane Recovery Office. Essentially, we will roll over the programs and reviews we initiated through the Gulf Coast office to the new DAO. A lesson we learned from Hurricane Katrina is that the presence of an office directly responsible for disaster assistance is essential," said Jadacki.

Jadacki will be responsible for overseeing the management of all DHS contracts, grants, and operations related to disaster assistance efforts. Jadacki will also be responsible for coordinating the audit activities of other federal Inspectors General who have an oversight responsibility for the funds transferred to their respective departments and agencies by FEMA to assist in disaster relief efforts.