



## **COL. (Ret.) Albert (Albie) Lewis, CEM, MAEM, MASS**

### *Federal Coordinating Officer Cadre – Region I*



Albie Lewis was hired as a Federal Coordinating Officer (FCO) for FEMA in February 2007. He has been appointed to over 4 dozen Presidential disasters and emergencies as the FCO and many other disasters as the DFCO to include Hurricanes Sandy, Irene, Ike, Mathew and many others. He is a former FEMA Disaster Assistance Employee and worked as a Special Assistant to the FCO for disaster responses for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and the Texas Wildfires in 2005-2006. He was awarded his “Certified Emergency Manager” (CEM) by the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) and is one of four Type 1 FCOs. He completed the Harvard Kennedy School for the National Preparedness Leadership Initiative (NPLI) in Dec. 2009. He has been assigned as the FCO for Vibrant Response (VR)-13 and evaluator for VR-16 and led the National Incident Management Assistance Team (IMAT) West to Cascadia Rising in 2016. He has also served as the Chair of the Field Leadership working group, served on the IMAT Working Group, and a number of committees like clean slate and CBRNE group. He was also appointed as the first Federal Disaster Recovery Coordinator (FDRC) for the Alabama Tornadoes to pilot the NDRF.

Albie was previously appointed as the Director of Vermont Emergency Management. In this position he was responsible for all operations of the State of Vermont’s Emergency Management system including overseeing preparation and planning for an emergency at VT Yankee Nuclear Power Plant, Electrical Power shortages and disasters, VT’s Hazardous Materials Response Team, and all preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation efforts for all hazard emergencies in the state. He was also Co-Chair of the International Emergency Management Group, a consortium of the New England States and 5 Eastern Canadian Provinces for emergency response and mutual aid. Albie left this Vermont position in 2005 to take a position with Electronic Warfare Associates (EWA), Information and Infrastructure Technologies, conducting vulnerability assessments for critical infrastructures across the United States.

Albie also served as a firefighter and Chief of the Berlin Volunteer Fire Department. His Fire service qualifications include: Firefighter, Hazardous Materials Technician, High Angle/Mountain Rescue, and Cold water/Ice rescue diver. He served with the fire service for over 25 years. He has also served as the President of the Fire Departments Corporation and as a member of the Capital Fire Mutual Aid System. He holds a US Patent for a fire fighting adapter allowing Fire Fighter air tanks to be used for Under Water Diving.

Colonel (Retired) Lewis completed his last active duty tour as the U.S. Military Liaison Team Chief for Macedonia. As the Team Chief, he oversaw the Military to Military exchange program under the Joint Contact Team Program, NATO & CINCEUR’s premier peacetime engagement activity which assisted Eastern European countries with their goal of NATO membership. Additionally, in 1991 during a Special NATO/SHAPE Assignment, he developed the operational deployment plan for 3-172 IN (Mountain) Battalion as a separate Battalion in 4<sup>th</sup> Corps Alpini area of operations in Northern Italy. He was also a Planner for SEECEP (South East Europe Civil Emergency Planning) and PFP with focus on SEE Earthquake response. He participated in and assisted with the planning for the multi-national earthquake exercise in Macedonia. He participated in numerous NATO level

exercises in Europe. In 2001 he was awarded a U.S. State Department Meritorious Honor Award by the U.S. Ambassador to Macedonia for his service to the U.S. Embassy.

During his hazardous duty tour, Macedonia became embroiled in an insurgent war that lasted beyond his tour of duty. His military career spanned more than 28 years primarily with the Vermont National Guard, with a concentration at the Mountain Warfare School and Mountain Infantry Battalion. He commanded the 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion 124<sup>th</sup> Regiment, Regional Training Institute (RTI) and commanded the National Guard Weapons of Mass Destruction 15<sup>th</sup> Civil Support Team, (WMD-CST) during its stand-up. He competed as a member of the U.S. Military Pentathlon Team competing for 5 years in the NATO International Council of Reserve Officers (CIOR) and competed in the 1980 U.S. Olympic Team Trials for Modern Pentathlon. He won two silver medals in the 1980 NATO CIOR Games in Montreal, Canada. He also worked as the NGB Sports Coordinator, hosting the Council International Sports Militare (CISM) games in VT.

Albie was born in Fort Lewis, Washington and raised in Carlisle, PA. He attended Scotland School for Veterans Children in Scotland, PA as a ward of the state from 1960 to 1968. In 1969 he graduated from Northfield High School in Northfield, VT. In 1973 he received a Bachelor's Degree in Education from Norwich University, and in 1998 received a Master's Degree in Fire Education & Emergency Management, also from Norwich. He is a graduate of the U.S. Army War College and holds a second graduate degree in Strategic Studies. He holds a TS-SCI security clearance. He is an instructor at the Emergency Management Institute, teaching state directors' and state coordinating officers' courses. He also operated a historical building business that dismantles 100+ year old post, beam barns and houses; moving these timber frames to new locations, restoring them for use as new homes and/or businesses. He has also worked on the Greenland Expedition recovering WWII aircraft out of the Greenland Icecap. COL (Ret) Albie Lewis and his wife (Honorable State Representative) Patti Lewis live in Berlin, Vermont. They have three children, Kristen, Brittany and Kaitlin.