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David Stearrett joined the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in 1999 and is currently the Director of the Office of the Flood Insurance Advocate. The Flood Insurance Advocate advocates for the fair treatment of policy holders and property owners by providing education and guidance on all aspects of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP), identifying trends affecting the public, and making recommendations for program improvements to FEMA leadership. Prior to his current role, David was the Chief of the Floodplain Management Branch. The Floodplain Management Branch oversees NFIP community eligibility, floodplain management compliance, floodplain management policy development, the NFIP's Community Rating System, and Community Information System. David's prior assignments at FEMA Headquarters also include serving as a Program Specialist in Mitigation's Risk Analysis Division and the Floodplain Management Branch. He is one of the first 40 people to earn the title of Certified Floodplain Manager (CFM) through the Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) certification test in 1999.

Prior to joining FEMA, David worked in the North Carolina NFIP State Coordinating Office as a coastal and riverine flood mitigation specialist. He has served in several disaster field offices as both a state and Federal employee.

David is retired from the United States Marine Corps Reserve after 22 years of service.

He has a B.S. in political science from the University of Idaho in Moscow, ID. He also has an M.P.A. from Valdosta State University in Valdosta, Georgia.

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