

# 2007 National PAO Academy “Weathering a CAP Crisis”

Panel Discussion on

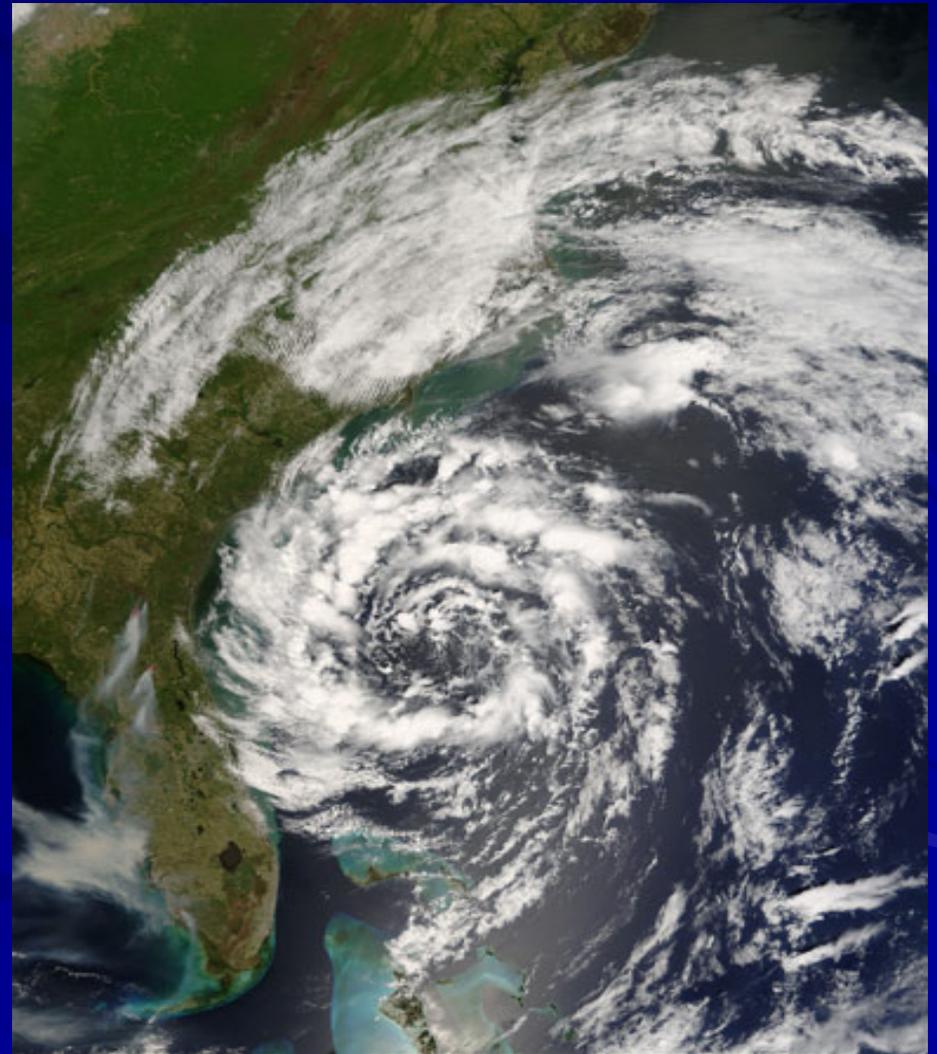
## Tropical Storm Ernesto

8 August 2007  
Atlanta , Georgia

Presented by  
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NC Wing PAO

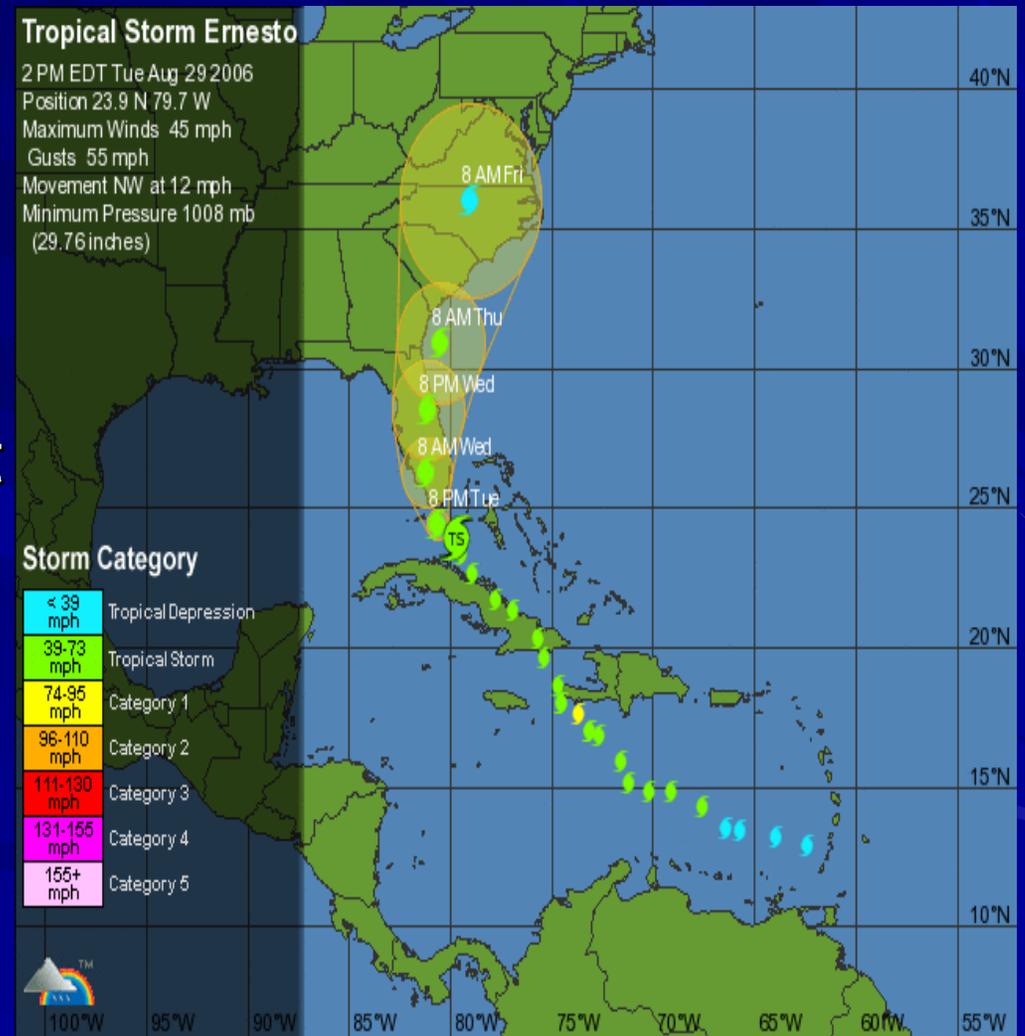
# Tropical Storm Ernesto

- Storm Track Facts
  - 28 Aug thru 4 Sept
- SE Florida Coast north into Wilmington NC then north into New England
- Rainfall exceeded 14 inches along storm track



# CAP Readiness Progressed Northward with Storm

- Layered CAP response
- Media notified of CAP readiness
- Escalated from alert status to activation status with storm's northward progress



# Actions Initiated For a Coordinated CAP Response

- Appointed MER PAO point of contact
- Storm advisories issued
- Requested current PAO contact update
- Ensured Wing PAOs availability
  - Including back up capability

# Readiness Reviews Conducted to Ensure Preparedness

- Mission Kits ready
- Media Kits ready
- Review Wing PAO Emergency Response Policy
- Media Contact Lists
- Listing of Qualified MIOs
- Contact all MIOs for possible activation
- Maintain communication with Wing ES Directors
- CAP EOC activation, 1 MIO and other MIOs in the field

# MER Unified Wing PAO Disaster Reporting Initiative

- ***First time, a proactive reporting initiative to streamline the PAO function during a regional disaster was implemented***
- Coordinated reporting efforts using a structured system
- Each Wing MIO would act independently under their respective Incident Commander
- MIOs would begin disaster operations interfacing with local media
- Each Wing MIO would submit regular progress reports to region point of contact

# MER Unified Wing PAO Disaster Reporting Initiative

- Information collected and summarized into a comprehensive status report of the unified CAP response
- Wing PAO sent releases directly to National CAP News Online reflecting “real time” actions
- After Action Reporting
  - Comprehensive review of all CAP activities
  - Reports sent to each MER Wing PAO, MER HQ and National HQ PA
- First time a unified system of reporting used in a regional natural disaster

# Successful Outcomes

- Communication was the key at all levels
  - Unit, Wing, Region, National
- Flow of information was constant and timely
- Wing PAOs' interface with local media was effective
- Region PAO Point of Contact's interface with national media and CAP National HQ streamlined information exchange
- Wing PAO encouraged to share "**best practices**" in the region for all to benefit

# Opportunities for Improvement

- More MIOs in the field
- Promote significance of CAP missions to media
  - Vital sorties performed ( i.e., power lines down, agricultural damage assessments, etc.)
  - Not deemed “newsworthy” to media
- Must compete for media coverage
  - MIO must be aggressive to get CAP disaster response contributions in the news