

	FEMA National Urban Search & Rescue Response System		
	<b>Informational Bulletin</b>		
	<b>Number:</b> IB-2024-009	<b>Date:</b> March 4, 2024	<b>Topic:</b> Training
	<b>Issued By:</b> Michael Davis, Chief (Acting), US&R Branch Operations Section		
<b>Subject:</b> USACE Advanced Structures Specialist (StS2) Training Course Announcement			

**Sponsored Course: SP2024-010**

On behalf of the National Urban Search & Rescue (US&R) Response System (the System), in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), an Advanced Structures Specialist Course will be held May 17-22, 2024, at the NASA-Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, Mountain View, California.

This course will consist of a series of tabletop scenarios that will challenge students to exercise judgment and make the type of decisions that are required at an actual rescue response site. In addition, two of the afternoon sessions will involve students in the testing of rescue shoring and the monitoring of distressed structures. A third field session will test the student’s physical and mental skills, including operations while donning protective suits and full-face masks. There will also be case study presentations of past and recent incidents in order to focus on the lessons learned from the Structures Specialist standpoint.

Each Task Force will be allowed to send at least one Structures Specialist; however, there is usually space for some Task Forces to send two students. Priority for acceptance of the second student will be on a first-come, first-served basis. The class will be limited to 44 students maximum.

To ensure that your task force has the opportunity to participate in this valuable training please submit your applications via [www.disasterengineer.org](http://www.disasterengineer.org) by April 25, 2024 (*select “Training Applications” from the top menu and click on the desired training course*). All students and their Task Forces will be notified of acceptance. The training is provided at no charge to the student. Any questions related to this training can be directed to Jeff Qunell, USACE US&R Program Manager at: (415) 503-6616 or: [Jeffrey.J.Qunell@usace.army.mil](mailto:Jeffrey.J.Qunell@usace.army.mil).

Alternate contacts: Pete Keating at: [p-keating@tamu.edu](mailto:p-keating@tamu.edu)  
 Dave Hammond at: [djhammond@sbcglobal.net](mailto:djhammond@sbcglobal.net)

**Attachments:**

USACE Advanced Structures Specialist (StS2) Training Logistics Letter

**cc:**

- US&R Strategic Group
- US&R Advisory Group
- US&R Branch Staff
- FEMA Regional/Federal/International ESF #9 Representatives
- USACE, Jeff Qunell



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**TO:** National US&R Response System  
Task Force Program Managers/Training Managers

**DATE:** February 27, 2024

**FROM:** Jeff Qunell, P.E. - USACE US&R Program Manager

**SUBJECT:** Advanced Structures Specialists Training – StS2 Announcement

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's National Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Response System, in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), has scheduled an Advanced Structures Specialist Course (StS2) to be held May 17-22, 2024, at the NASA-Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, Mountain View, California. This training will be delivered IN-PERSON for the first time since 2019. **Please note that this 5-day training begins on Friday afternoon (May 17th) and ends on a Wednesday in order to minimize conflicts with Memorial Day weekend travel.** This very important training is offered to Task Force Structures Specialist (StS) candidates and is open to other task force personnel to receive hands-on, awareness level of StS training (TFL's and managers are encouraged to enroll, as well as other non-engineer task force members).

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**Students should plan to arrive at Moffett Field by 1500 on Friday, May 17th in order to participate in a pre-class training sessions from 1600 hours on.** See the next page for detailed, logistical information.

If there are any questions, please contact Jeff Qunell, USACE US&R Program Manager at: (415) 503-6616, or by email at: [Jeffrey.J.Qunell@usace.army.mil](mailto:Jeffrey.J.Qunell@usace.army.mil). Alternate contacts: Pete Keating, [p-keating@tamu.edu](mailto:p-keating@tamu.edu) and Dave Hammond, [djhammond@sbcglobal.net](mailto:djhammond@sbcglobal.net).

## StS2 TRAINING ANNOUNCEMENT

### LOGISTICAL INFORMATION FOR StS2:

Dates:	1600 hrs - May 17 thru 1300 hrs-May 22, 2024 (Travel on 17 May and either 22 or 23 May)
Location:	NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, Mountain View, CA
Airports	San Jose, CA Airport (SJC – 9 miles) or San Francisco Airport (SFO – 25 miles)
Airport to Moffett Field	* UBER or LYFT (smartphone app based service) * Super Shuttle 800-258-3826
Transport at Moffett Field	Daily van transportation from the Navy Lodge to the training site will be provided at no cost.
Moffett Field to Airport	Wednesday, 22 May afternoon return will be provided at no cost to SJC only. All other reservation times/locations for students will need to be made with shuttle services.
Lodging	Navy Lodge, (650) 962-1542 for reservations: Block number: 61070506107 593 Vernon Avenue; Mountain View, CA 94043 <u>Alternate:</u> NASA Exchange Lodge, 650-603-7100 (No room blocks have been made)
Meals	\$230 for all meals including Friday eve, paid by cash or check, collected at the training. Receipts will be provided. All meals served in Bldg. 267 (training bldg). Make checks payable to “Golden Harvest”. (Friday, 17-May dinner provided & Wednesday, 22-May only breakfast and lunch provided)

Room rates at the Navy Lodge are \$140 per night (flat fee). Modern amenities can be reviewed at <https://www.navy-lodge.com> (select California, Moffett from the dropdown). Alternate lodging may be available at the NASA Exchange lodge at the current local per diem rate of \$245 (non-renovated rooms may be available at lower rates). All students need to make their own reservations (refer to room block info above).

Individuals may not travel from the lodge to the class site in a personal or rented vehicle. Van transportation will be provided for on-base travel to and from the training site, with daily pickup at 0700 hours at the Navy Lodge. On “Day 0,” Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, van transportation will pick up students at roughly 1500 from the Navy Lodge.

Each student should arrange his/her own airport pick-up. Free drop-off will be provided to San Jose International Airport by 1400 hrs, 22 May following the class end. All other returns to either airport will need to be arranged by each student. A map of the site will be sent to each accepted student.

A government issued picture ID (driver’s license with photo) is required for entry onto the Moffett Field site.

Clothing: Students will be required to wear their standard Task Force BDU pants, shirts and boots during all classroom sessions. A Task Force baseball cap is recommended (*please remove cap while indoors*). In addition, basic PPE (helmets, gloves, knee, ear and eye protection) will be required during the field sessions on Days 2, 3 and 4. Each student will be required to wear their full-face mask during the field exercise on Day 4.

Class Format: the class will attempt to simulate an “Incident Response” as much as possible. Students will be divided into teams for accountability and travel. During classroom exercises teams will be subdivided into A & B units for more individual participation. Normal Incident accountability will be practiced within each team, and ICS 214 forms will be completed each day. A student photo or head shot will be required prior to class start in order to prepare “Accountability Tags”.

Also the “Bring List” will include:

Backpack or Fannypack  
Laptop (with admin rights)  
Calculator & Tape Measure  
Binoculars & Digital camera  
StS Field Ops Guide (FOG, **Edition 9**); *each*  
*TF was issued 250 copies in mid-2022*  
Equipment Vest (optional)

Rite-in-the-Rain type field book  
Clipboard/knee board  
StS Forms (avail @ [disasterengineer.org](http://disasterengineer.org))  
Sun Screen, Lip Balm, Sun Glasses, Rain Gear  
Task Force **AV3000** face piece, cartridge  
adapter and P100 cartridge