2020 has been an unprecedented year across the board and particularly challenging for MEMA between several natural disasters and COVID-19. Due to the global pandemic, the agency was forced to adjust day to day operations in order to guarantee the safety and health of all MEMA employees.

Technology proved to be a vital part of these adjustments, which was a call to action for MEMA’s Office of Information Technology Services. The department quickly stepped up to the plate and has been involved in all aspects of the agency’s operational support to ensure that business continued as usual despite the countless limitations COVID placed on the agency’s daily activities.

MITS has been working to move MEMA to the digital forefront by expanding the agency’s technological capabilities. A few of these upgrades and enhancements include: the expansion of the Microsoft Surface Pro Fleet to support a mobile computing environment, the addition of ATT/Firstnet capable devices to include 5G as well as WiFi devices, the development of programs like Crisistrack to drastically shorten the damage assessment collection process and the addition of thermal temperature scanners at MEMA facilities for COVID-19 screenings.

All of these efforts would not be possible without the exceptional MITS staff, which has grown to 11 full-time employees, four full-time disaster reservists and one traditional disaster reservist.

“I’m extremely proud to lead the MITS team. 2020 has been a wild ride and we are already preparing for 2021. Our team is excited about the future of MITS and the additional technological advancements we have planned for MEMA," says Chief Information Officer, Bob Buseck.

So, what is next for MITS? The department is actively working on more ways to shorten and enhance the damage assessment collection process, specifically through the use of aerial capture including drones. Artificial Intelligence is the future of emergency management and the MITS team is currently engaged with several partners to expand these capabilities. Finally, Next Generation 911 is another program MITS is developing for the state to advance life safety technology and help promote Mississippi’s growth in the future.

Thank you to each member of the MITS staff for all of your hard work during this unpredictable time to ensure that all MEMA employees have the resources necessary to keep the agency running smoothly!
EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

Kelly Richardson

Kelly has hit the ground running since she came to MEMA. She’s taken all of her new challenges with stride and has exceeded expectations. Her work is integral to our messaging. She exhibits a positive attitude and always puts 100% into every project. Kelly’s work in External Affairs has touched every department of this agency and statewide.

FROM THE OFFICE OF MITIGATION
FLOODPLAIN BUREAU’S NAUGHTY OR NICE LIST

NICE LIST

- ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM:
  - NFIP backed flood insurance for ALL in the community.
  - Available disaster funding for ALL that are eligible.
  - Available flood insurance premium reductions through CRS.
  - Available federally backed loans throughout the community.
  - Enforcing local flood damage prevention ordinance.
  - On-time flood map adoptions.

NAUGHTY LIST

- FAILURE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE PROGRAM:
  - NFIP backed policies will not be available for purchase or renewal.
  - No federal grants or loans will be available for eligible buildings.
  - No federal disaster funds will be given to relieve insurable, eligible buildings.
  - No federal mortgage loans will be given for eligible buildings.
  - No federal disaster relief will be provided to eligible buildings after a federal declared disaster.
TO THE MEMA TEAM:

Kimbley Hendrix  
Support Services

Sean Maily  
Preparedness

James Curry  
Preparedness

Terry Brelan  
Logistics

Ransom Ford  
Logistics

Thomas Sills  
Preparedness

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**December**

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<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>15 <strong>MEMA’S IN-SERVICE TRAINING</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>21 <strong>FIRST DAY OF WINTER</strong></td>
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<td>23</td>
<td>24 <strong>CHRISTMAS EVE - OFFICES CLOSED</strong></td>
<td>25 <strong>CHRISTMAS DAY CLOSED</strong></td>
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<td>27</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>31 <strong>NEW YEARS EVE OFFICES CLOSED</strong></td>
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