

## Governor Nominates Robert McAleer to Head Maine Emergency Management Agency

AUGUSTA - Governor John Baldacci today announced that he is nominating Robert P. McAleer as Director of the Maine Emergency Management Agency (MEMA). Upon confirmation, McAleer will lead the department charged with providing the leadership, coordination and support in the four phases of emergency management: mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery. MEMA is a bureau of the Department of Defense, Veterans and Emergency Management <http://www.maine.gov/va/defense/dvs.htm>.

" I am pleased to nominate someone of Robert McAleer ' s caliber to serve in this important leadership role, " said Governor Baldacci. " Robert ' s extensive military career coupled with his recent experience in homeland security and emergency preparedness will make him a wonderful leader of this department. He has a proven record managing a wide range of challenges, and his unique set of skills will greatly benefit the safety and welfare of the state. "

McAleer, a resident of Harpswell, served nearly thirty years with the military. In his career as a Marine, he served in a variety of capacities including commander. His experience ranges from developing and executing logistical support for operations to planning and managing operational and readiness requirements and objectives.

As Battalion Commander of the 2nd Marine Regiment, he planned and executed the emergency evacuation of 280 civilians from the American Embassy in Somalia, an operation that earned him the Bronze Star Medal.

From 1993 to 1996, McAleer served as Executive Secretary for the Department of Defense, where he managed administrative functions among other duties. He was awarded the Defense Distinguished Service Medal for his leadership at the Department.

McAleer finished his career with the Marines as Assistant Chief of Staff with the First Marine Division. There, McAleer managed training plans for 20,000 people, developed operational plans and coordinated support to global operations.

Following his distinguished military career, McAleer entered the private sector. He has for the past five years served in numerous part-time positions, a number of which enabled him to use his incident management and response preparedness experience and knowledge of Homeland Security related issues. He has since 2004 served as adjunct staff member for the National Emergency Response and Rescue Training Center at Texas A&M University. McAleer has conducted emergency response training exercises in Lincoln County and Brunswick. He has assisted Brunswick with the development of a town-wide safety program.

McAleer is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame.

Legislation passed into law last year authorized the director of MEMA to have direct access to the Governor in the case of an emergency. The law also transferred oversight of MEMA to the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee. After approval by the Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee, Robert McAleer must be confirmed by the Senate.