

2025 Current Fiscal Year Report: Board of Visitors for the National Fire Academy

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1. Department or Agency

Department of Homeland Security

2. Fiscal Year

2025

3. Committee or Subcommittee

Board of Visitors for the National Fire Academy

3b. GSA

Committee No.

748

4. Is this New During Fiscal Year?

No

5. Current Charter

10/14/2022 10/14/2024

6. Expected Renewal Date

7. Expected Term Date

8a. Was Terminated During Fiscal Year?

No

8b. Specific Termination Authority

8c. Actual Term Date

9. Agency Recommendation for Next Fiscal Year

Continue

10a. Legislation Req to Terminate?

Not Applicable

10b. Legislation Pending?

Not Applicable

11. Establishment Authority

Statutory (Congress Created)

12. Specific Establishment Authority

15 United States Code, section 2206(j)

13. Effective Date

10/29/1974

14. Committee Type

Continuing

14c. Presidential?

No

15. Description of Committee

Non Scientific Program Advisory Board

16a. Total Number of Reports

No Reports for this Fiscal Year

17a.

Open

1 17b. Closed 0 17c. Partially Closed 0 Other Activities 0 17d. Total 1

Meetings and Dates

Purpose	Start	End
Meeting	12/02/2024	- 12/02/2024

Number of Committee Meetings Listed: 1

	Current FY	Next FY
18a(1). Personnel Pmts to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(2). Personnel Pmts to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(3). Personnel Pmts to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18a(4). Personnel Pmts to Non-Member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(1). Travel and Per Diem to Non-Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(2). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Members	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(3). Travel and Per Diem to Federal Staff	\$0.00	\$0.00
18b(4). Travel and Per Diem to Non-member Consultants	\$0.00	\$0.00
18c. Administrative Costs (FRNs, contractor support, In-person/hybrid/virtual meetings)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18d. Other (all other funds not captured by any other cost category)	\$0.00	\$0.00
18e. Total Costs	\$0.00	\$0.00
19. Federal Staff Support Years (FTE)	0.00	0.00

20a. How does the Committee accomplish its purpose?

The Board shall review annually the programs of the National Fire Academy (Academy) and advise the FEMA Administrator through the U.S. Fire Administrator regarding the operation of the Academy and any improvements therein that the Board of Visitors (Board) deems appropriate. The Board shall make interim advisories to the FEMA

Administrator through the U.S. Fire Administrator whenever there is an indicated urgency to do so in fulfilling its duties.¹ In carrying out their responsibilities, the Board shall include in their review: a. An examination of Academy programs to determine whether these programs further the basic missions which are approved by the FEMA Administrator; b. An examination of the physical plant of the Academy to determine the adequacy of the Academy facilities; and, c. An examination of the funding levels for the Academy programs. 2. The Board shall submit its annual report through the U.S. Fire Administrator to the FEMA Administrator, in writing. This report shall provide detailed comments and recommendations regarding the operation of the Academy. The Board shall submit interim reports through the U.S. Fire Administrator to the FEMA Administrator whenever there is an indicated need to do so in the fulfillment of its duties. The National Fire Academy Superintendent is the Designated Federal Officer who attends each meeting of the Board and is authorized, whenever he/she so determines it to be in the public interest, to adjourn any such meeting. The FEMA Administrator can designate a member of the management staff of the U.S. Fire Administration to be the Designated Federal Officer. The Board shall not conduct meetings in the absence of the Designated Federal Officer or his/her designee. By way of their actions, the Board helps the NFA provide the Nation's fire and emergency response community with enhanced knowledge, skills, and abilities through its vital training and professional development programs. In turn, by training tens of thousands of career and volunteer emergency response personnel annually, the Academy helps to ensure a broad well-trained presence across the Nation, and this heightened all-hazard / all-risk

preparedness level is crucial to preventing and responding to fire and other related hazards, including acts of terrorism.

20b. How does the Committee balance its membership?

The members of the Board consists of professionals from the fields of fire safety, fire prevention (such as community risk reduction to include wildland urban interface) , fire control research and development in fire protection, treatment and rehabilitation of fire victims, or local government services management, and from such professional organizations as will ensure a balanced representation of fire and emergency services interests. Members will be appointed as Special Government Employees (SGEs) as defined in section 202(a) of title 18, United States Code.

20c. How frequent and relevant are the Committee Meetings?

Depending on funding availability and scheduling considerations, the Board meets as often as needed to fulfill its mission, but not less than once each Federal fiscal year at the National Emergency Training Center in Emmitsburg, Maryland, to address its objectives and duties. Permission to meet at an alternate location may be granted by the U.S. Fire Administrator. Other meetings may be held via conference call. At a meeting, the Board may address a specific issue such as preparing the Board's Annual Report or receive overviews on Academy curriculum, programs, and delivery.

20d. Why can't the advice or information this committee provides be obtained elsewhere?

The Fire Service is parochial in nature with a

tradition of over 200 years that often results in vested interests among the various sectors of the fire community. While there are many other sources from which to obtain information, guidance, and evaluation, none serve as well as this relatively unbiased group of professionals which represent the interest of the greater fire community universe. Its membership comes from all sectors and thus provides an internal check and balance with regard to their counsel and advice.

20e. Why is it necessary to close and/or partially closed committee meetings?

Not Applicable.

21. Remarks

Not applicable.

Designated Federal Officer

Eriks Gabliks DFO

Committee Members	Start	End	Occupation	Member Designation
Bauer, Nelson	09/30/2023	01/20/2025	Deputy Fire Chief	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Butler, John	02/11/2019	01/20/2025	Fire Chief/Chair BOV	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Davis, Edward	09/30/2023	01/20/2025	Executive Director	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Dubay, Steven	10/01/2020	01/20/2025	Deputy Chief/Vice Chair BOV	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Schuth, Megan	09/30/2023	01/20/2025	Battalion Chief/Fire Marshal	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Somers, Scott	09/30/2023	01/20/2025	Professor	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member
Wesley, Tiffanye	09/30/2023	01/20/2025	Deputy Fire Chief	Special Government Employee (SGE) Member

Number of Committee Members Listed: 7

Narrative Description

The Board supports the FEMA Mission and Vision, which is helping people before, during and after disasters and to have a prepared and resilient Nation. The Board also supports Strategic Goal #1 which promotes the idea that everyone should be prepared when disaster strikes. People who are prepared will be able to act quickly and decisively in the face of disasters, thereby preventing death and injuries, minimizing loss of property, and allowing for a more rapid and efficient recovery. The Board also supports Strategic Goal #2 which focuses on enhancing our collective readiness. The Nation's readiness depends on emergency management professionals who execute the mission on behalf of the Federal and SLTT governments. This requires a scalable and capable National Incident workforce that can adapt and deploy to a changing risk landscape, greater integration with our partners at all levels, and the ability to communicate and coordinate effectively in every situation. The Board annually reviews the Academy's training programs to determine whether they further the mission as approved by the Agency's Administrator. The Board makes recommendations for improvement, inspects the physical facilities in Emmitsburg, Maryland, and reviews funding levels for all Academy training programs.

What are the most significant program outcomes associated with this committee?

Checked if
Applies

Improvements to health or safety	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Trust in government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Major policy changes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Advance in scientific research	<input type="checkbox"/>
Effective grant making	<input type="checkbox"/>
Improved service delivery	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Increased customer satisfaction	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Implementation of laws or regulatory requirements	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Outcome Comments

NA

What are the cost savings associated with this committee?

Checked if Applies

None	<input type="checkbox"/>
Unable to Determine	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Under \$100,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$100,000 - \$500,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$500,001 - \$1,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$1,000,001 - \$5,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
\$5,000,001 - \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Over \$10,000,000	<input type="checkbox"/>
Cost Savings Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Cost Savings Comments

There is currently no mechanism in place to determine cost savings at this time.

What is the approximate Number of recommendations produced by this committee for the life of the committee?

4

Number of Recommendations Comments

The board recommends that the USFA and FEMA to provide any resources available to expedite the hiring and onboarding processes for permanent and contract positions. The NFA continues to have urgent vacancies in essential staff and leadership positions. Currently 19% of positions (27.5 total) at NFA are unfilled, with 1 position being vacant for nearly 3 years. Addressing this requires streamlining of the hiring process. Filling vacancies takes 6 to 12 months to complete, interfering with attracting and retaining desirable candidates. The board recommends that the USFA and FEMA provide the funding for an on-campus health, wellness and resilience center to model the expected behaviors taught to students. The board recommends that additional funding and resources be provided to meet the market demand within the Leadership, Incident Management, and Fire Investigations training programs. This is due to the currently excessive admissions wait times, in some cases approaching several years. The board recommends and believes that it is imperative that the USFA and NFA obtain the required comprehensive funding to maintain their overall mission and the expected role each plays within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/FEMA. There are 4 recommendations

for FY 24, for a total of 37 during this charter period.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Fully implemented by the agency?

85%

% of Recommendations Fully Implemented Comments

The percentage of committee recommendations that have been or will be fully implemented by the Agency is an approximation. Not all recommendations are fully or partially implemented due to limited resources and/or existing policy.

What is the approximate Percentage of these recommendations that have been or will be Partially implemented by the agency?

15%

% of Recommendations Partially Implemented Comments

Partially implemented due to limited resources and/or existing policy.

Does the agency provide the committee with feedback regarding actions taken to implement recommendations or advice offered?

Yes ☒ No ☐ Not Applicable ☐

Agency Feedback Comments

Feedback to the committee on proposed recommendations is provided informally through e-mail, telephone calls, and follow-up meeting discussions.

What other actions has the agency taken as a result of the committee's advice or recommendation?

Checked if Applies

Reorganized Priorities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Reallocated resources	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Issued new regulation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Proposed legislation	<input type="checkbox"/>
Approved grants or other payments	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input type="checkbox"/>

Action Comments

NA

Is the Committee engaged in the review of applications for grants?

No

Grant Review Comments

NA

How is access provided to the information for the Committee's documentation?

Checked if Applies

Contact DFO	<input type="checkbox"/>
Online Agency Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online Committee Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Online GSA FACA Web Site	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Publications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Access Comments

The BOV's Annual Report is sent to the head of the organization through appropriate channels.