

# National Hurricane Program

*Working for Safer Communities*



## Hurricane Floyd Assessment

In September 1999, Hurricane Floyd threatened the eastern coastline of the United States from Florida to North Carolina, causing a massive evacuation. Floyd provided an opportunity to answer several key questions regarding major FEMA/U.S. Army Corps of Engineers hurricane evacuation study planning efforts:

- Did local and state officials use the products produced in these major studies?
- Were study data regarding storm hazards, behavioral characteristics of the threatened population, shelter information, evacuation times, and decision making accurate and reliable?
- Which study products were most useful and which were least useful, and what improvements could be made to current methodologies and products?

To answer these questions, study teams consisting of representatives from FEMA, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and Post, Buckley, Schuh & Jernigan, Inc., visited local and state officials throughout the directly impacted areas of Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina.

Interviews and analysis conducted during the post-Floyd effort revealed heavy evacuation participation rates on the part of permanent population and tourists throughout the study areas.

