



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, January 27, 2006

MEDIA CONTACT:

Scott VanDeman
Director of Communications
Office: (850) 414-2974
Cell: (850) 212-8460
scott@volunteerflorida.org

**CARLOS J. CASTILLO, OF DORAL, APPOINTED TO GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION
ON VOLUNTEERISM AND COMMUNITY SERVICE**

*Governor Jeb Bush appoints Chief Carlos J. Castillo, Director of the
Miami-Dade County Office of Emergency Management, to
Volunteer Florida.*

TALLAHASSEE — Governor Jeb Bush recently appointed Chief Carlos J. Castillo, of Doral, to the Governor's Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service (Volunteer Florida). Chief Castillo will serve a three-year term.

As Director of the Miami-Dade County Office of Emergency Management (OEM), Chief Castillo is responsible for coordinating the County's mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery plans for major emergencies. As OEM Director, he has coordinated the County's response to the four hurricanes in 2004, and Hurricanes Dennis, Katrina and Wilma in 2005. He has been a member of the Miami-Dade County Fire Department since 1981 as both a firefighter and as a paramedic. Castillo also is a registered nurse with cardiac and emergency department trauma-unit experience.

In response to the April 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah federal building in Oklahoma City, Chief Castillo was among the first five people FEMA activated, marking the first time an Incident Support Team was implemented. He also served as the Incident Support Team Leader for FEMA's Urban Search and Rescue response to the Pentagon attack in September 2001. Gov. Jeb Bush subsequently appointed Castillo to Florida's Domestic Security Advisory Panel. The panel, established by executive order following the September 11 attacks, provides advisory assistance to the Governor, the Legislature and other government entities.

(more)



401 South Monroe Street • Tallahassee, Florida 32301 • (850) 921-5172 voice/tty • (850) 921-5146 fax

www.volunteerflorida.org

Chief Castillo was an original member of the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group under the auspices of the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UN-OCHA). His international program development experience led to his selection to the team that developed the National Urban Search and Rescue Response System for FEMA.

Chief Castillo has received the Dade County Fireman’s Association Distinguished Service Award and was selected Firefighter of the Year for the state of Florida by the Florida Fire Marshall’s Association.

“Volunteer Florida is thrilled to have Chief Castillo as one of our new Commissioners!” said Volunteer Florida Chief Executive Officer Wendy Spencer. “His expertise in emergency management and response will surely strengthen Volunteer Florida’s understanding of, and response to, disasters. Plus, he will be a dynamic advocate of the emergency management community embracing volunteers as an integral component of disaster recovery.”

Volunteer Florida Commissioners drive Volunteer Florida’s mission, and are actively involved in volunteer and service activities. They are a diverse, bipartisan group of citizens appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Florida Senate, who serve a three-year term.

The Governor’s Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service was established in 1994 by the Florida Legislature to administer grants under the National and Community Service Trust Act of 1993. The Commission grants funds to Florida AmeriCorps and National Service programs; encourages volunteerism for everyone from youths to seniors to people with disabilities; promotes volunteerism in emergency management and preparedness; and helps to strengthen and expand Volunteer Centers in Florida.

###

www.volunteerflorida.org

