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CONTACT:
Office of Homeland Security:
Jim Pettit
(410) 974-2620

MIEMSS:
Jim Brown
(410) 706-3994

Ehrlich Announces Stamp to Join Governor's Homeland Security Team

Following twenty-seven years of service to the people of Ocean City, Clay B. Stamp has accepted a new position with the Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems (MIEMSS). MIEMSS is the state agency responsible for the coordination of emergency medical services.

"Public safety is a central pillar of the Ehrlich-Steele Administration and Clay Stamp is a key addition to our homeland security team," said Governor Robert L. Ehrlich Jr. "Responses to disasters start with first responders at the local level and his experience in Ocean City is critical to helping the state prepare and respond to disasters."

Beginning February 12, 2004, Stamp, 45, will become the Director of Emergency Operations at MIEMSS. Stamp will be responsible for the coordination of the agency's activities related to homeland security, Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD), and mass casualty planning and events. Emergency Medical Services play a key role as first responders during any WMD or mass casualty incident. Additional areas under Stamp's direction will be the Emergency Medical Services System's Communications Center (SYSCOM) and Emergency Medical Resource Center (EMRC).

"Emergency medical services and public health and hospitals must function as seamlessly as possible, especially during mass casualty incidents," said the Governor's Office of Homeland Security Director Dennis Schrader. "In his new role, Clay Stamp

will help us advance the coordination between EMS and the public health and hospital systems.”

“Clay’s many years of experience and dedication as an Emergency Services Manager, Firefighter, and Paramedic fit perfectly into his new position at MIEMSS,” said Dr. Robert R. Bass, MD, Executive Director at MIEMSS.

Stamp has served the people of Ocean City in numerous emergency services capacities. As Director of Emergency Services, he was responsible for the Department of Emergency Services that is comprised of four divisions, which include Emergency Management, Police and Fire Communications, Fire/EMS, and Electronics Services, with 90 full/part-time personnel.

“The State of Maryland is getting the very best,” said Ocean City Mayor James Mathias. “Over 8 million visitors come to Ocean City each year and our primary job is to keep them safe. Clay has been our only emergency manager since I served as Mayor since 1996.”

In addition, Stamp will continue to serve as a member of the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s Hurricane Liaison Team, as well as the National Evacuation Liaison Team. The Hurricane Liaison Team members are responsible for providing on site coordination between the Hurricane Center Forecasters at the National Hurricane Center in Miami, Florida and Federal, State, and Local Emergency Management Officials during USA hurricane threats. Stamp is a Nationally Registered Emergency Medical Technician-Paramedic (NREMTP).