National Advisory Committee on Windstorm Impact Reduction (NACWIR) Member

Walter G. Peacock, Ph.D.
Professor, Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning and the Sustainable Coastal Margins Program Director, Hazard Reduction and Recovery Center Bryan and Sandy Mitchell Master Builder Chair College of Architecture Texas A&M University

Dr. Peacock is a professor of urban planning with expertise in natural hazard mitigation and adaptation, and long-term disaster recovery. While his disaster expertise is broad, he has significant experience with the study of human behavior and social systems in relation to hurricanes. For example, he has examined post-hurricane housing recovery, coastal community hazard mitigation planning, and incentive programs for wind hazard retrofitting by homeowners.

He is a faculty member in the Department of Landscape Architecture and Urban Planning and the Director of the Hazard Reduction and Recovery Center at Texas A&M University, where he has been a member of the faculty since 2002. He received his PhD in Sociology from the University of Georgia. He is internationally known for his research on disaster recovery, community resiliency, and social vulnerability. He was awarded the *Quarantelli Award for Social Science Disaster Theory* in 2009 acknowledging significant theoretical work in disaster and hazards research. In 2012 he was awarded the *Sandy and Bryan Mitchell Master Builder Endowed Chair* and in 2014 he received the *Distinguished Achievement Award in Research* from Texas A&M.

He has conducted research in Florida, Texas, California, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, the former Yugoslavia, Italy, Turkey, and India. He has been the principal investigator (PI) or Co-PI on dozens of research grants to examine community resilience and disaster recovery. He is currently the Social Science Team Leader for the NIST Center of Excellence for Risk-Based Community Resilience Planning.

Dr. Peacock has authored or co-authored over 100 articles, book chapters, books, research monograph and technical reports. His hazards and disaster related articles have appeared in journals such as the *International Journal of Mass Emergencies and Disasters*, *Natural Hazards Review*, *Natural Hazards*, *Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure*, *Risk Analysis*, and *Disasters*. He has co-authored three books. His first, entitled *Living Conditions, Disasters and Development,* provides a set of standardized measures for assessing the impact of and recovery from disasters based on household living conditions that can be employed cross-nationally and cross-culturally. His second book, entitled *Hurricane Andrew: Ethnicity, Gender, and the Sociology of Disasters,* documents the impacts and early recovery efforts from Hurricane Andrew in South Florida. In his most recent co-authored book, *Planning for Community Resilience*, describe an inclusive planning process for creating disaster-resilient communities. Based on their recovery work after Hurricane Ike in Galveston, Texas and hazard mitigation planning work among coastal communities, they developed a blueprint for community based resiliency planning. This work can guide any community through the process of determining their level of hazard exposure, physical vulnerability, and social vulnerability and offers a portfolio of planning tools and strategies with the goal of promoting disaster resilient communities.

He has given briefings regarding household, housing, and community recovery following major natural disasters to local, state, and federal officials. Examples include speaking on Capitol Hill addressing housing recovery issues, serving on an expert team assembled by the National Academies of Science investigating housing and housing assistance, consulting for the Governmental Accountability Office on housing rebuilding and recovery issues, and speaking on a National Academies of Science panel on community resiliency and disaster recovery. He addressed the National Science Board, governing council for the NSF, regarding the need for research on long-term recovery following hurricanes. He described the outcome of social science research which suggests that our nation's reliance on market-based approaches, while effective in many ways, systematically fails to ensure broad-based recovery, particularly housing recovery for renters, minorities and low-income households. He also described the need to better understand the social structures and processes generating vulnerability to hurricanes and other disasters in the first place if we are to become a more disaster resilient nation.