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# PRESS RELEASE

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## **ALLEN COUNTY OFFICIAL RECEIVES PAIR OF NATIONAL HONORS**

(Washington, DC) – The director of the Allen County (Ohio) Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Management has been recognized as one of the nation’s leading local emergency managers by the International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM).

Russ Decker has been awarded the prestigious, “Clayton R. Christopher” award by IAEM as the nation’s local emergency manager of the year. Decker was nominated for the honor by the Allen County Board of County Commissioners. Ohio Congressman Michael Oxley (OH-4) seconded the nomination.

Decker was also elected to head the IAEM organization in 2008-09. He won the race for Second Vice President, beating out challengers from Florida and California. IAEM is a non-profit organization representing the nation’s more than 3,000 county and municipal emergency managers. Decker will become the organization’s president in the fall of 2008.

Decker has been with the Allen County agency since 1990 and has served as its director since 1998. He holds a Master of Science degree from Tiffin University with undergraduate studies from The Ohio State University and the University of Northwestern Ohio. He received his Certified Emergency Manager credential in 2003 and completed FEMA’s Professional Development Series in 2001. In 2005 he was awarded the “Excellence in Public Service Award” from the Ohio Chemistry Technology Council.

Decker also serves as an adjunct instructor of criminal justice at Tiffin University and Rhodes State College in Lima. He is an instructor in weapons of mass destruction, hazardous materials, arson investigation, incident command, bombs and explosives at the Ohio Peace Officer Training Academy, Ohio Fire Academy and for the National Office of Domestic Preparedness.

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