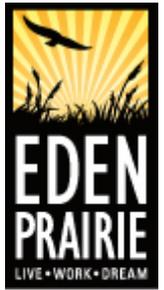


# NEWS RELEASE

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## CITY OF EDEN PRAIRIE EMPLOYEE RECEIVES MILITARY PROMOTION

Utility Operations Manager Chosen as FEMA's  
Principal Regional Emergency Preparedness Liaison Officer

**EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn.** — City of Eden Prairie utility operations manager, Rick Wahlen, who is a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve, has been selected to be the next principal regional emergency preparedness liaison officer (PREPLO) for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Region V. This appointment promotes Wahlen to the rank of colonel.

With this appointment, Wahlen will be the Army's chief reserve forces coordinator for civil-military emergency assistance throughout FEMA Region V, with responsibilities for planning and directing emergency response efforts between the military and citizens throughout a six-state region.

"The position is an honor for me and for my family," said Wahlen. "I am looking forward to my new responsibilities in the Army while continuing my service for the City of Eden Prairie."

Wahlen's place of duty will be Great Lakes Naval Station in Chicago. As the PREPLO of Region V, which includes the states of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Michigan, Ohio, Indiana and Illinois, he will travel throughout the region and the United States to perform his duties. He will supervise a staff and provide leadership for a joint team of senior officers from each of the five branches of the military. Wahlen's team mobilizes during times of regional emergencies, and augments other FEMA headquarters as needed during crises that occur outside of FEMA Region V.

"We feel very fortunate to have someone of Rick's military stature and depth of expertise on our staff," said Scott Neal, Eden Prairie city manager. "We will accommodate his new position in any way we can."

Wahlen has served for 23 years in both the Army and the Army Reserve in various leadership roles and has been the City of Eden Prairie's utility operations manager since January 2006. He and his family reside near Le Sueur, Minn.

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