

# #4

**COMPLETE**

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## Page 1: Contact Info

### Q1

#### Contact Info

Name	<b>James Cunningham</b>
City/Town	<b>NAPLES</b>
State/Province	<b>FLORIDA</b>
Email Address	<b>jtcunni039@gmail.com</b>
Phone Number	<b>239-825-8075</b>

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### Q2

Name of CERT Program you are affiliated with

Florida CERT Association

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### Q3

Name of Government Agency you are an employee with if applicable

Collier County Sheriff's Office

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### Q4

Please indicate your current CERT roles (choose all that apply)

**CERT Program Manager,**  
**CERT Basic Instructor,**  
Other (please specify):  
NCA Vice President, Immediate Past President Florida  
CERT Assn.

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### Q5

Please indicate your region (where you are physically based)

**Region IV - Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky,  
Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee**

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## Page 2: CERT Experience

**Q6**

How many years have you been involved with CERT?

15 years

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**Q7**

Which CERT related courses have you taken (select all that apply)

- CERT Basic Training Course,**
  - CERT Train-the-Trainer Course,**
  - CERT Program Manager Course**
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**Q8**

Briefly describe your CERT experience

Started with CERT as an Instructor as a firefighter with North Naples Fire. As I moved up the ranks I trained as program manager and as Fire Chief, CERT was an interictal part of our organizational response and deployment strategy both locally and around the state. I was on the board of directors for the Florida CERT Association to include 4 years as President. Honored have been elected as the Vice President of National CERT upon it's creation in 2018.

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**Q9**

Briefly describe a CERT project that you led or were a major part of and how it benefited your CERT program/community

I had the privlige to work closely with Volunteer Florida and Florida Department of Emergency Management when we started a statewide deployment strategy before, during and after disasters. Following in region mutual aid deployment we recognized the need to expand such deployments and with the leadership of Christy Rojas at Volunteer Florida we have deployed CERT resources every hurricane season since 2018. In many cases, multiple deployments. This process has allowed our CERT members to be active, utilize their skills and build their experiences.

I would be remiss if I did not also mention the project of being part of building the National CERT Association from the ground up. President SuuVa Tai expressed his vision of what a national cert program could do and I was responsible for chairing a committee to establish the By-laws, Mission Statement, Vision Statement and Articles of Incorporation. Our goal is to support state organizations in the recruiting, training, retention and expansion of CERT programs throughout the Nation.

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Page 3: Contribution as a NCA Board Member

**Q10**

Please describe your experience and expertise with Associations and how this will benefit the NCA

I have and still volunteer with a number of Non-for-profit boards and other associations locally and statewide. I live by the values of putting my community first and enjoy serving others. I have used my knowledge and experience of associations to help build the foundation of the existing NCA. We are off to a great start but I recognize we have a lot to do to create structure, expand membership and meet the increased demand of CERT programs nationwide.

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**Q11**

Briefly describe how your skills, experience, and currently CERT related activities would be beneficial to the NCA and NCA Leadership team:

I am a retired Fire Chief of North Collier Fire District, a career organization of more than 250 employees responding to over 18,000 emergency calls for service with an annual budget of nearly \$40 million dollars.

I am currently employed with the Collier County Sheriff's Office as a Commander. My duties include establishing performance based analytics for the over 1300 employees, Emergency Management, K-9, Gangs, Emergency Response Team and Real-time Operations Center. I have a strong business acumen that I believe would benefit the NCA. I currently serve as the chair of the Conference Committee as we have begun our planning of the 2022 and 2023 conferences. We are also in the process of building job duty expectations for elected principle officer positions to better train and on-board new officers to the NCA as we build the organization.

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## Q12

NCA Board Members are required to lead/participate in NCA committees. Please indicate your level of interest in the following current/future NCA committees

CERT Awards Committee	<b>1 - I will support this committee if needed but have little experience in this area</b>
CERT Train-the-Trainer and Program Manager Committee	<b>2 - I will support this committee if needed and relevant experience in this area</b>
CERT Volunteer Development and Support Committee	<b>2 - I will support this committee if needed and relevant experience in this area</b>
Communications Committee	<b>2 - I will support this committee if needed and relevant experience in this area</b>
Credentialing Committee	<b>2 - I will support this committee if needed and relevant experience in this area</b>
Elections Committee	<b>2 - I will support this committee if needed and relevant experience in this area</b>
ID Card Committee	<b>1 - I will support this committee if needed but have little experience in this area</b>
International CERT Committee	<b>1 - I will support this committee if needed but have little experience in this area</b>
Marketing and Promotion Committee	<b>2 - I will support this committee if needed and relevant experience in this area</b>
Membership Committee	<b>2 - I will support this committee if needed and relevant experience in this area</b>
National CERT Conference Committee	<b>6 - I am interested in leading this committee and have relevant experience in this area</b>
Newsletter Committee	<b>1 - I will support this committee if needed but have little experience in this area</b>
Social Media Committee	<b>1 - I will support this committee if needed but have little experience in this area</b>
Training Committee	<b>2 - I will support this committee if needed and relevant experience in this area</b>
Youth Preparedness Committee	<b>1 - I will support this committee if needed but have little experience in this area</b>

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## Q13

What are some projects that you think the NCA should be working on/emphasizing to better support CERT programs and how can you help lead this project?

Establish working committees to report back to the Board of Directors on a regular basis.

Request that the new board of directors meet more regularly until we get more action from the committees and understand the expectations.

**Q14**

As a NCA Board of Directors At Large member, you are representing specific CERT stakeholders based on your at large designation. Briefly describe your relationship with these stakeholders, including your communication channel and how you could represent them accurately.

Based upon my relationships at the local, state and national levels with elected officials, state and federal emergency management agencies I believe we can identify additional funding options, expand our national training networks and opportunities.

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**Q15**

NCA Leadership candidates are required to have a recommendation from their next in line in the CERT Hierarchy. CERT Volunteers need a recommendation letter from their CERT Program Manager CERT Program Managers need a letter of recommendation from their CERT Sponsoring Agencies CERT Program Managers that are also the Sponsoring Agency Point of Contact need a letter of recommendation from their supervisor State/Territory CERT Coordinators need a letter of recommendation from their supervisor and/or FEMA Region

**NCA Letter of Recommendation Cunningham.pdf (253.3KB)**

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**Q16**

Respondent skipped this question

(optional) Please upload any additional letters of recommendations or supporting documents

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**Q17**

Respondent skipped this question

(optional) Please upload any additional letters of recommendations or supporting documents

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**Q18**

Respondent skipped this question

(optional) Please upload any additional letters of recommendations or supporting documents

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August 23, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my honor to recommend James Cunningham for continued service with the National CERT Association.

As the Florida State CERT Program Manager, I have had the opportunity to work extensively with Mr. Cunningham, for the last five years. We first began working together to support Florida CERT teams across the state during his time as President of the Florida CERT Association. We have continued to partner together through his work with the National CERT Association.

Mr. Cunningham's passion to grow and support CERT programs throughout the State of Florida and the Nation is evident in all he does. Together we worked to establish a deployment process for CERT teams throughout the state of Florida. Due to Mr. Cunningham's passion, experience and belief in the CERT programs—we have successfully deployed a number to teams throughout the state to support every major disaster that has occurred in Florida in the last five years.

During Mr. Cunningham's time as the Florida CERT Association President, he worked to continue to grow and professionalize the CERT programs across the state. Due to a champion like Mr. Cunningham, CERT throughout our state has expanded and continues to grow. I know this energy and passion extends to the National level.

I fully endorse and recommend Mr. Cunningham without reservations. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Thank you,

Christy Rojas  
Volunteer Florida  
Emergency Management Director