



# U.S. Coast Guard Recovery: Health/Safety Factors Related to Hurricane Katrina/Rita:

by  
CDR Joselito S. Ignacio, CIH, CSP, REHS, MPH  
U.S. Public Health Service Detailed to the  
United States Coast Guard  
Washington, D.C.

July 2006



# Outline



- General Coast Guard Operations Overlay
- Coast Guard Safety & Health Deployment
- Lessons Learned



# Purpose

Highlight the significance in addressing health and safety in Contingency Planning and Operations



# CG Operations Overlay



- 33,544 individuals saved as of 21 September 2005 (8 Times Over the Average Saved Per Year)
- Responded to 1,129 pollution incidents.
  - 7 million gals oil discharged
  - Unknown sewage amounts
  - Only 426 cases closed out as of 20 Sept 05
- 39 of 48 Aids-to-Navigation devices were repaired by 20 September 2005





# Effect on CG Operations



- **3,619 CG personnel deployed (7.5% of total active/reserve)**
- **700 CG personnel lost homes**
- **National Finance Center (NFC) in NOLA was damaged delaying pay issues until relocation in Philadelphia, PA.**
- **Costs of Response depleted the FY 2005 O&M Budget while cutting into its FY 2006 budget - \$500 million**
  - **Fuel**
  - **CG Maintenance & Equipment**
  - **Transportation costs**
  - **Expendable Supplies**
  - **Oil Response Equipment**
  - **CG Reserve Call-up**





# Effect on CG Operations



## District 8:

<u>Unit</u>	<u>Operational Impacts</u>	<u>Facility Damage</u>	<u>Estimated Costs</u>
AIRSTA NEW ORLEANS	No known impacts	Moderate	\$2,200,000
STA DESTIN	No known impacts	Minimal to none	None
<b>STA GRAND ISLE</b>	<b>Major impacts</b>	<b>Extensive</b>	<b>\$7,000,000</b>
STA DAUPHIN ISLAND	No known impacts	Minimal to none	\$750,000
STA PENSACOLA	No known impacts	Minimal to none	\$10,000
<b>STA GULFPORT</b>	<b>No known impacts</b>	<b>Extensive</b>	<b>\$18,000,000</b>
<b>STA VENICE</b>	<b>Major impacts</b>	<b>Extensive</b>	<b>\$2,500,000</b>
STA NEW ORLEANS	No known impacts	Moderate	None
STA PANAMA CITY	No known impacts	Minimal to none	None
STA PASCAGOULA	No known impacts	Moderate	\$1,500,000
SEC NEW ORLEANS	No known impacts	Moderate	\$22,700,000
SEC MOBILE	No known impacts	Moderate	\$2,700,000
COMMSTA NEW ORL	No known impacts	Moderate	\$500,000
<b>ISC NEW ORLEANS</b>	<b>Major impacts</b>	<b>Extensive</b>	<b>\$104,000,000</b>
ATC MOBILE	No known impacts	Moderate	\$2,200,000

**\$45,980,000**





# Coast Guard Safety & Health Assets Deployed



- Safety & Environmental Health Offices (IH and EH Personnel):
  - Norfolk, VA (CG MLC Atlantic)
  - Portsmouth, VA
  - New Orleans, LA \*\*
  - Miami, FL
- Marine Safety Offices with Assigned Safety & Occupational Health Coordinators (SOHC) and/or IH Trained Coast Guard Officers:
  - New Orleans, LA \*\*
  - Baltimore, MD
- Coast Guard National Strike Force (NSF):
  - Atlantic Strike Team (1 IH & few Site Safety Observers)
  - Gulf Strike Team (1 IH & few Site Safety Observers)
  - Pacific Strike Team (1 Site Safety Observer)

**\*\*Limited Response**



# Focus of Safety & Health



- Primary: Coast Guard Personnel and CG Operations
- Secondary: Public/FEMA-related Operations
- Specific Focus: Environmental health/preventive medicine, sanitation, water quality and general safety for the sleeping areas and command post buildings.



# Contingency Ops Concerns



- Many CG facilities significantly damaged or destroyed due to Hurricane Katrina
- CG Infrastructure in region no longer viable for the immediate mission support.
  - Continuity of Operations (COOP) was implemented.
  - Significant challenge due to limited space & further travel distance to conduct Search & Rescue and to obtain resupply



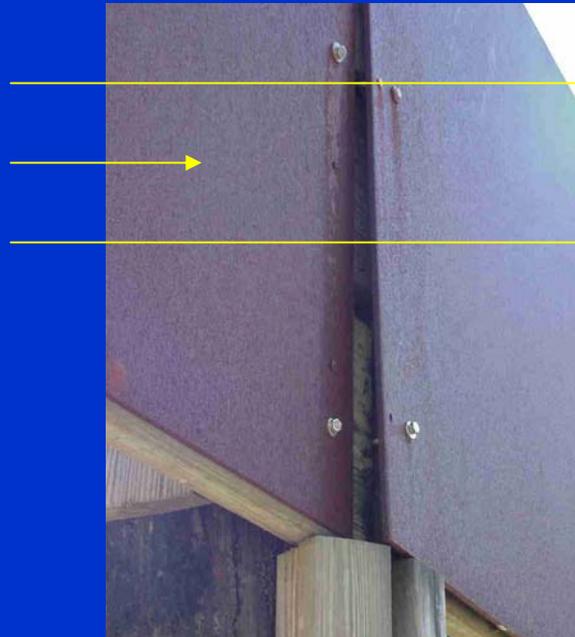


# Contingency Ops Concerns



- CG training facilities and opportunities significantly affected in the long-term

NOLA Firing Range damaged, BUT initially not surveyed for safety and demand to reopen was made



# Safety Advisories during Contingency Plan Implementation



- General Health & Safety Messages
  - Food Safety
  - Immunizations
  - Water Quality
  - Sanitation & Hygiene
  - General Safety Precautions
  - Building Remediation
  - Waste/Trash Management
  - Mold
- Advisory#1: Maintaining Water Quality
- Advisory#2: Heat Prevention
- Advisory#3: Mosquito Control
- Advisory#4: Skin Care



# Lesson Learned#1 Safety & Environmental Health Focus Early in Contingency Operations



- Successfully Addressed Safety & EH FIRST
  - Food safety
  - Water quality
  - Electrical Safety
  - Unstable Structures
  - Communicable Diseases
- These issues positively affected responders quickly





## Lesson Learned#2

# Monitor Volunteer Support Organizations as part of Contingency Operations



- What is their mission?  
Did they receive training/orientation?
- Volunteer Tasks with Associated Risks:
  - Search and Rescue
  - Boating Operations in Flooded Areas
  - Vehicle/Truck Driving
  - Chain saw operations to clear debris
  - Security or Check-In
  - Medical Treatment of Victims
  - Wildlife/Pet Recovery
- Coordinate with the lead support volunteer organization that safety brief given
- Monitor, using Site Safety Officers.



## Lesson Learned#3 Need to Be Self-Supporting



- Have a pre-deployment ready list suitable for 2 week time frame:
  - Clothing/Uniform
  - Personal Toiletries
- Have a professional ready list:
  - Laptop with charged batteries
  - Small, Pocket-size Reference materials:
- Have communications equipment:
  - Text Messaging (Less Bandwidth than cell phones)
  - Cell phone (may not work initially)
  - 2-way radios if traveling as a team.
- Be prepared to sleep in austere conditions:
  - Sleeping Bag
  - Sleeping Pad



## Lesson Learned#4

### Address Long-Term Contingencies Questions to Ask which Have Health/Safety/Work-Life Impact



- Can our current COOP site for C2 be sustained for over a year long?
- What additional training facilities can we use over the next year? Can you do without training and accept a degradation in operational readiness (e.g., weapons quals)?
- Reassignment issues to affected areas:
  - Should families not be sponsored?
  - What housing assets are available for new personnel?
- What on-site temporary facilities can be used over a year long recovery operation?
- Strategically, can organization continue to fill critical staff needs from other districts or sectors over a long-term basis?





# Summary

- Address health and safety support and requirements in Contingency Plans
- Implement health and safety actions (thru advisories, on-site inspections) early in operation
- Appoint health and safety staff that is experienced and trained in disaster response.



## Questions???

Joselito S. Ignacio, CIH, CSP, REHS, MPH  
Commander, U.S. Public Health Service  
Environmental Health Division  
Office of Safety and Environmental Health  
U.S. Coast Guard  
[JIgnacio@comdt.uscg.mil](mailto:JIgnacio@comdt.uscg.mil)