



RHUMB LINES

Straight Lines to Navigate By



September 4, 2008

Hurricane Response and Preparedness

"The netted Regional Operation's Centers, execution of well orchestrated evacuations, creation of our safe havens, and our ability to account for our personnel and their families - 99% accountability inside 72 hours - highlight the true meaning and capability of the Navy's adaptive shore force."

– Vice Adm. Bob Conway, Commander, Navy Installations Command

Hurricane Gustav made landfall on the Gulf Coast on Sept. 1, and tropical storm Hanna and Hurricane Ike continue to move across the Atlantic. Our ability to quickly respond to disasters is a critical Navy mission, and we remain committed to providing support where needed. Lessons learned from previous natural disasters have made us better prepared to respond to crises.

Taking care of our Navy Family

- Communicating with Sailors, civilians and their families is paramount. We are not only reviewing recall lists, but ensuring personnel and their families [have a plan](#) in the event of an evacuation.
- To identify the needs of Navy personnel and their families impacted by these storms, contact information should be updated on the Navy Family Accountability & Assessment System (NFAAS) website: <https://www.navyfamily.navy.mil/>. NFAAS is a method for the Navy to account, assess, manage, and monitor the recovery process for personnel and their families affected by a widespread catastrophic event, allowing commanders to make decisions which facilitate a return to stability.
- Fleet and Family Support Centers (FFSC) established an Emergency Family Assistance Center at Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Fort Worth and a [Welcome Center at NAS Meridian](#) to support Gustav evacuees. FFSC contacted Individual Augmentees' spouses in the area to offer any assistance needed.

Navy Contributions and Preparations

- Navy installations are prepared for and quickly execute emergency management operations in support of the Fleet, Navy personnel, families, and local communities. As part of Defense Support to Civil Authorities (DSCA), installations provide the necessary shore capabilities to support local, state and federal agencies, while maintaining mission readiness.
- [USS Bataan \(LHA 5\) is underway](#) to demonstrate at sea readiness for disaster response.
- Ships in the Hampton Roads, Va., area are prepared to get underway in order to evade tropical storm Hanna if conditions require. Ships in Kings Bay, Ga., have gotten underway. Other area operations are continuing as normal as commands make hurricane preparations.
- On Aug. 30, three C-9 Sky Trains and one C-40A Clipper from Navy Reserve Fleet Logistics Support Wing flew evacuees from New Orleans to Nashville.

Key Messages

- The Navy is committed to knowing where our people are and supporting them through any crisis, natural or otherwise.
- While worldwide maritime security remains a top priority, we also remain highly capable and ready to provide disaster response per the Maritime Strategy.
- U.S. Navy forces are capable of conducting extensive search and rescue, evacuations and providing medical assistance.

Facts & Figures

- The Travel Processing Center, a subcomponent of the Navy Pay and Personnel Support Center, has a toll-free numbers to assist customers with questions regarding travel entitlements in connection with ordered emergency evacuations. Voice: 1-866-239-0303; FAX: 1-866-708-6985
- Approximately 67,247 DoN personnel were affected by Gustav, 10,724 were evacuated, and more than 98% have been accounted for.