



# KATRINA +10: LESSONS LEARNED

April 27, 2016



# Lesson #1: Preparedness

- Citizens must be prepared
- State and local governments must be prepared
- Federal government must be prepared





Lesson #2: Planning – Plan for the worst and hope for the best. Know that the next storm could be even worse.

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## Lesson #3: Adaptability is critical.



Government authorities at every level **MUST** be adaptive and proactively plan for and respond to what has happened, **NOT** what they thought would happen.



...and back up  
plans are  
essential.





# Lesson #4: Communications systems can and must be improved.

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SEP 28 2005



Lesson #5: South Mississippi must never take for granted the importance of our military and military installations.

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Ordinary citizens  
as well as people  
like Capt. Ed  
Stanton, General  
Blum and Admiral  
Mullen  
personified  
leadership and  
courage.





# Lesson #6: We are forever grateful to members of the Mississippi National Guard.

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## Hurricane Katrina Stats: Mississippi National Guard

- Presence in every MS county south of 1-20
- Peak strength Mid-September: 15,000 troops (40 states)
- Aviation Resupply Missions;: 2,000 sorties
- Delivered: 2,574,425 lbs. of ice, water, MREs, personal hygiene items
- Cleared: 4,000 miles of debris from roadways
- Search and Rescue Missions: 600+
- Distributed: 37 million lbs. ice, 4.5 million gallons water and 4 million MREs
- Hancock County makeshift hospital: 18,000 vaccinations
- Civilian Patients Treated: 3,500+
- Traffic Control Points: Thousands





Working nonstop and  
offering around the  
clock support





Lesson #7: Character Matters. First responders were everyday heroes who showed up in spite of great personal losses.





# Lesson #8: Our nation desperately needs insurance reform.

- Private sector not prepared for catastrophic event
- In many cases, federal government bore costs that should have been paid by insurance industry.
- Immense NFIP debt – at taxpayer expense – as a result





# Lesson #9: Nearly EVERYONE can help SOMEONE.





Lesson #10: The people of South Mississippi, ever resourceful, are good at making lemonade from lemons.



Fishing reefs were created using concrete rubble from bridges and roads.



# Lesson #11: There are heroes all around us.

"Motherhood and a career in human resources had made Holland a good listener. She kept a box of Kleenex near her desk, because lots of people cried. When a constituent complained, she filled out a form and sent it to FEMA, launching a formal congressional inquiry."



"Knowing how self-reliant some of these people were, how reluctant to ask for help, she told them what she had told many others: Everyone understands that the whole world was destroyed here in Mississippi. The government has programs to help. It's all right to use these programs now; there will be plenty of time later to give back."

***Tampa Bay Times***  
July 23, 2006