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

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*