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(U) NRO'S DIRECTORATE OF MILITARY SUPPORT HELPS WITH

# HURRICANE KATRINA RELIEF

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(b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424

The Deputy Director for Military Support (DDMS) Operational Support Office's (OSO) Engineering group provided valuable assistance to the Naval Oceanographic Office (NAVO) in support of Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.

(b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424

THROUGH WILLINGNESS TO HELP, PERSONAL SACRIFICE, creative problem solving, determination, and a fortuitous conversion at Burger King, the Deputy Director for Military Support (DDMS) Operational Support Office's (OSO) Engineering group provided valuable assistance to the Naval Oceanographic Office (NAVO) in support of Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.

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Early in the days following Hurricane Katrina, personnel from the United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) called DDMS/OSO Engineering's (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424, (b)(6) asking his group to be on standby to deploy a unit to support helicopter rescue operations. It turned out the USSOCOM didn't need that support after all. However, preparations for that support paid off toward another mission.

#### **(U) It all Began with a Family's Trip to Mississippi**

(U) In a simple, but profound, display of compassion in action, (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424, (b)(6) his wife, and kids drove to Mississippi with a truckload of supplies they bought from Wal-Mart to provide relief to victims of Hurricane Katrina. The family left at 7 p.m. Friday, Sept. 2, less than one week after Katrina bulldozed several Gulf states, and drove through the night to Bay Springs, Mississippi. >>> p. 16

*(Photo is UNCLASSIFIED.)*

(U) Home devastated by Hurricane Katrina in Slidell, Louisiana, 15 miles south of Stennis Space Center. Photos by (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424, (b)(6) and (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424, (b)(6)

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(U) Scenes of Hurricane Katrina's destruction in Slidell, Louisiana, 15 miles south of Stennis Space Center. Photos by (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424, (b)(6)

(U) The (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424, (b)(6) had a point of contact in the hurricane zone, thanks to DDMS (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424, (b)(6) who has family in Bay Springs. (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424, (b)(6) had made arrangements with a church there as a place to drop off donated supplies. Once there, (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424, (b)(6) made note of what other supplies were needed and told (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424, (b)(6) who was planning to travel to the area the next day. Through continued communication with (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424, (b)(6) was able to provide exactly what the people there needed. When (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424, (b)(6) showed up with raps, for example, the church pastor was amazed that he brought things for which he had expressed a need only a day or so before.

(U) On their way back to Virginia, the (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424, (b)(6) family stopped for fast food in Meridian, Mississippi. While in line at Burger King (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424, (b)(6) observed a woman buying a large order of Whopper Juniors, and commented that she appeared to be buying enough food to feed a small army. She corrected him, saying she was "actually feeding a small navy." The woman (b)(6) explained that she works at the Stennis Space Center doing hydrocartography, mapping shorelines and waterways. (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424, (b)(6) told her that he works at the NRO and asked if they use imagery for their work. (b)(6) replied, yes, but said that at the time they had no communications link for receiving imagery. (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424, (b)(6) gave her his card and told her to call him Tuesday morning and he would try to help.

**(U) OSO Leaps Into Action**

(U) (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424, (b)(6) returned to work Tuesday morning to find a voice mail from (b)(6) requesting assistance. (b)(6) put (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424, (b)(6) in contact with an NGA representative at Stennis, (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424, (b)(6) who explained that their ability to get communications was severely hampered because the existing base communications were partitioned out for emergency purposes so that the base could account for the safety of its people. (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424, (b)(6) said that they were getting communications at "dial up" speed, completely insufficient for the emergency response task at hand.

<sup>1</sup> (U) Stennis Space Center is located near the towns of Picayune and Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, about two hours from Meridian.

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**(U) People Coping with Devastation**

(U) The NRO team observed dire situations during their brief TDY to Mississippi. They witnessed scenes of utter devastation. "It looked like a war zone. I've been to 63 countries," said (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424, (b)(6) "and Slidell [Louisiana] felt like a foreign country." He likened the destruction to scenes of the Indian Ocean tsunami aftermath and floods in Bangladesh. "Some buildings were reduced to concrete slabs," observed

(b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424, (b)(6) See photos.)

(U) Uprooted trees ... buildings reduced to piles of timber ... boats on land, even on rooftops ... downed power lines and poles ... broad expanses of standing water covering normally dry land ... cars scattered after being tossed around like toys ... desperate people taking shelter in tents ... cans of not-so-tasty water labeled "filtered drinking water" ... brave volunteers helping their fellow citizens. These all were common sights.

(U) While in the Gulf area, the team had difficulty receiving cell phone calls, but it was possible to call out. On the road, they found it hard to find open gas stations, although their connections with local residents provided fruitful tips on where to find gas. At one point, they gassed up their vehicle free on base.

(U) During the first week following Katrina, about 150 people took shelter in the NAVO building. Many of them were NAVO employees and their families, who had no homes or cars after the hurricane. At the time of the NRO team's stay, about 15-20 people remained living at NAVO. The building provided one shower—with cold, but clean, water—a place to sleep, safe drinking water, and food available at the NASA building across the street.

(U) The Gulfport-based Naval Construction Battalion (Seabee) detachment had set up a tent city to shelter evacuees nearby. The Marines provided security and performed rescue operations. Emergency responders were using Stennis as a staging area for response to tornado destruction to the north and hurricane storm surge destruction to the south, around Slidell and Bay St. Louis. ■ (This is UNCLASSIFIED.)

(U) (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424, (b)(6) told (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424, (b)(6) a portable communications system that could help with the situation at Stennis. Within an hour, (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424, (b)(6) gave him the "thumbs up" from his end—they would accept the help. (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424, (b)(6) quickly put together a team and sought permission from NRO leadership to support the need. He spent Wednesday refining the requirements and putting together the support package—figuring out the details of the support needed and how to proceed. The next morning, Larry Burgess, deputy director of DDMS, approved sending an OSO Engineering team to Mississippi, out of OSO's TDY budget. The team left that same evening. "This couldn't have happened without the willingness and support of the team members' company and NRO leadership," said (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424, (b)(6)

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(b)(1)1.4c

(U) The [redacted] (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424 communications equipment made it possible for NAVO to receive high bandwidth mission-critical imagery and other data in near-real time.

(b)(1)1.4c [redacted] After working a full day, the OSO Engineering team [redacted] (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424, (b)(6) lead [redacted] (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424, (b)(6) engineer; and [redacted] (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424, (b)(6) network engineer—deployed on Sept. 8, getting on the road at 6:00 p.m. [redacted] (b)(1)1.4c, (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424 After 1,100 miles and almost 24 hours on the road, they arrived at Stennis and were greeted by [redacted] (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424, (b)(6) who took them to the Naval Oceanographic Office (NAVO) there. [redacted] (b)(1)1.4c, (b)(1)1.4e, (b)(1)1.4g, (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424

[redacted] (b)(1)1.4c, (b)(1)1.4e, (b)(1)1.4g, (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424

(U) The NRO employees then set up their personal equipment—air mattresses and sleeping bags—in the office where they would work, and crashed after nearly 36 hours on the go, finally getting much-deserved rest. Though unconventional, their TDY quarters received no complaints because the building, operating on generator power, had air conditioning, for which everyone in that hot, humid climate was grateful.

(U) [redacted] (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424, (b)(6) [redacted] (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424, (b)(6) [redacted] (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424, (b)(6) [redacted] (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424

(U) NGA uses the Web-based Access and Retrieval Portal (WARP) to push data to servers to be uplinked to GBS.

(U//FOUO) [redacted] (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424

[redacted] (b)(1)1.4c OSO Engineering designed and developed [redacted] (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424 a rugged, portable communications system [redacted] (b)(1)1.4c, (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424, (b)(1)1.4e, (b)(1)1.4g, (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424

[redacted] (b)(1)1.4c, (b)(1)1.4g, (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424

[redacted] (b)(1)1.4c, (b)(1)1.4e, (b)(1)1.4e, (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424

[redacted] (b)(1)1.4c, (b)(1)1.4e, (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424

[redacted] (b)(1)1.4c, (b)(1)1.4e, (b)(1)1.4e, (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424

[redacted] (b)(1)1.4c, (b)(1)1.4e, (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424 support and

the other to [redacted] (b)(1)1.4c, (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424 OSO, however, still had a [redacted] (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424

development model on hand. It was that unit they took to Stennis.

[redacted] (b)(1)1.4c [redacted] (b)(1)1.4c, (b)(1)1.4e, (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424

[redacted] (b)(1)1.4c, (b)(1)1.4e, (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424

[redacted] (b)(1)1.4c, (b)(1)1.4e, (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424

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[redacted] (b)(1)1.4c

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Fortunately, OSO Engineering's (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424, had set up IP addresses one week prior, in anticipation of supporting the USSOCOM, so the network pathway was ready when the (b)(1)1.4c, (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424 team needed it.

(Photos are UNCLASSIFIED.)

(b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424  
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(b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424

(b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424, (b)(6)

(b)(1)1.4c The team showed tenacity in solving problems on the fly. (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424, sustained (b)(1)1.4c, (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424 (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424, (b)(6) **Top: (U) Operational Support Office team (left to right):** (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424, (b)(6) (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424, (b)(6) **Bottom: (U) operating the** (b)(1)1.4c, (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424, (b)(6)

(b)(1)1.4c, (b)(1)1.4c, (b)(1)1.4g, (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424  
(b)(1)1.4c, (b)(1)1.4c, (b)(1)1.4g, (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424  
(b)(1)1.4c, (b)(1)1.4c, (b)(1)1.4g, (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424  
(b)(1)1.4c, (b)(1)1.4c, (b)(1)1.4g, (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424  
(b)(1)1.4c, (b)(1)1.4c, (b)(1)1.4g, (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424

(U) (b)(3) 10 U.S.C. 424, (b)(6) uses one word to sum it all up: teamwork, saying that, "nobody does it all by himself." ■ (This is (b)(1)1.4c

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