



Homeland Security

Privacy Office DHS-D3

August 3, 2006

Melanie Sloan, Executive Director
Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington
11 Dupont Circle, N.W.
2nd Floor
Washington, D.C. 20036

Re: DHS/OS/PO 05-776/Sloan request

Dear Ms. Sloan:

This is our final response to your September 7, 2005, Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). You requested any and all records relating to the DHS response to Hurricane Katrina, for the specified time frames of January 1, 2001, to the present for Items 1 through 6, and August 26, 2005, to the present for Items 7 through 19. Please note that DHS was created January 24, 2003; therefore, no DHS records exist prior to that date. Records created prior to the establishment of DHS by any of the component DHS agencies would be maintained by those components and FOIA requests for those documents should be sent directly to the FOIA Officer for that DHS component. The list of DHS FOIA contacts can be accessed via www.DHS.gov. Specifically, you requested documents that reveal:

1. What portion of the \$3.1 billion appropriated to DHS in fiscal year 2005 for emergency preparedness to "support the Nation's ability to prepare for, mitigate against, respond to and recover from natural and manmade disasters" was spent to prepare for potential hurricanes on the Gulf Coast of the U.S. and on potential flooding in New Orleans;
2. the amount of money diverted from emergency preparedness for and response to natural disasters to emergency preparedness for and response to acts of terrorism and the rationale behind any such diversions;
3. studies, assessments, presentations, or scenarios of the potential devastation a powerful hurricane could wreck on the Gulf Coast, including, but not limited to the eight-day tabletop exercise conducted in July 2004, and intended to prepare DHS for a catastrophic hurricane in New Orleans;
4. plans created regarding the Federal Government's response to such scenarios;
5. the potential breaching of the levees that would lead to Lake Pontchartrain flooding New Orleans and the response to such breaches;
6. communications from anyone employed by or associated with the Army Corps of Engineers regarding the problems with and weakness of the levees surrounding New Orleans, the potential breaching of the levees and the consequences of such breaches, as well as proposed repairs or other construction to the levees;
7. requests for emergency assistance from local government officials in Mississippi and Louisiana in response to Hurricane Katrina, including but not limited to Secretary Chertoff's communications with such officials;
8. requests from local government officials in Mississippi and Louisiana for assistance in preparing for Hurricane Katrina, including, but not limited to communications requesting assistance in evacuating residents of Mississippi and Louisiana from the areas in the hurricane's path;
9. communications between the White House and DHS regarding the preparations for and response to the damage caused by Hurricane Katrina;
10. communications between DHS Secretary Michael Chertoff and FEMA Director Michael Brown regarding the preparation for and the response to the damage caused by Hurricane Katrina;
11. communications regarding the conditions in the New Orleans Convention Center;

12. communications regarding the need for transportation to evacuate victims of the hurricane from the city of New Orleans as well as communications regarding the need for food and water for victims stranded in New Orleans;
13. communications from Congressman Charles W. Boustany, Jr. (R-LA) requesting federal assistance and any response to Cong. Boustany;
14. communications regarding offers by corporations and foreign governments to assist the victims of Hurricane Katrina and DHS's response to such offers;
15. communications between DHS and cabinet officials, either before or after the hurricane, regarding the potential and actual devastation wrought by the hurricane and the Federal Government's response to the devastation;
16. communications regarding the plan to evacuate victims of the hurricane to Charleston, South Carolina and the misrouting of the plane carrying the evacuees to Charleston, West Virginia;
17. communications regarding the deployment of the National Guard to New Orleans to assist in evacuation and relief efforts;
18. communications regarding the inclusion of Operation Blessing, a Virginia based charity run by evangelist and Christian Coalition founder Pat Robertson, on DHS's list of charities to which people were asked to donate money to assist hurricane relief efforts; and
19. communications regarding the limitations placed on journalists and photographers, including, but not limited to, efforts to prevent photographers from taking pictures of the corpses of hurricane victims in Louisiana and Mississippi.

Our May 18, 2006 letter summarized our processing of your request to-date. Our search, directed to all DHS employees who might have records deemed responsive to any request for Katrina-related records, has produced thus far a combined total of 3,122 pages responsive to Items 7, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, and 17 of your request. Out of those 3,122 pages, we provided you with a combined total of 45 pages with certain information withheld pursuant to Exemptions 2, 5 and 6 of the FOIA. The Office of the Undersecretary for Preparedness is responding to Items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 17, 18 and 19 of your request and is reviewing and responding directly to documents we found during our search. You may contact the FOIA Officer for the Undersecretary for Preparedness, Sandy Ford Page, via email at Sandy.FordPage@dhs.gov or at (202) 282-9077. FEMA is responding to Items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17, 18 and 19 of your request and is reviewing and responding directly to documents we found during our search. You may contact the FEMA FOIA Officer, Jeff Oval, via telephone at (202) 646-3051 or in writing at 500 C Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20472.

Additionally, in our September 14, 2005 letter to you, we explained that we referred this request to the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) for processing and direct response to you. USCG will respond to all items deemed to fall under USCG purview, in addition to documents we referred to USCG for review and response. You may contact the USCG by writing to the USCG FOIA Officer, Donald Taylor, at 2100 Second Street, SW, Washington, DC 20593. TSA will respond directly to you as to documents we referred to the FOIA Officer for review and response. You may contact TSA by writing to the TSA FOIA Officer, Catrina Pavlik, Office of Security, West Bldg, 11th Floor, 701 South 12th Street, Arlington, VA 22202-4220.

Our office has completed the processing of the remaining items of your request. Our search produced an additional 5 responsive pages. Out of those 5 pages, we are now enclosing 3 pages with certain information withheld as detailed below.

As it relates to Item 12 of your request, our search produced 2 responsive pages. Those pages are being withheld in their entirety pursuant to Exemption 5 of the FOIA, 5 U.S.C § 552 (b)(5). Exemption 5 protects the integrity of the deliberative or policy-making processes within the agency by exempting from mandatory disclosure opinion, conclusions, and recommendations included within inter-agency or intra-agency memoranda or letters.

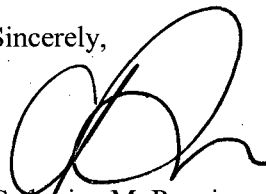
As it relates to Item 17 of your request, our search produced 3 responsive pages. Because those pages contain information of interest to another agency, we could only respond to you as it relates to those pages after

consulting with the Department of Transportation (DOT) regarding its information. Accordingly, we consulted with the DOT and have now enclosed the 3 pages with excisions made pursuant to Exemptions 2 and 6 of the FOIA, 5 U.S.C. §§ 552 (b)(2) and (b)(6). Exemption 2 (low) exempts from disclosure records that are related to internal matters of a relatively trivial nature, such as internal administrative tracking. Exemption 2 (high) protects information applicable to internal administrative matters to the extent that disclosure would risk circumvention of an agency regulation or statute, impede the effectiveness of an agency's activities, or reveal sensitive information that may put the security and safety of an agency activity or employee at risk. Exemption 6 exempts from disclosure records the release of which would cause a clearly unwarranted invasion of personal privacy.

You have the right to appeal withholding determinations within 60 days of the date of this letter. Should you wish to do so, you must send your appeal to the Office of the General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security, Washington, DC 20528, following the procedures outlined in Subpart a, Section 5.9, of the DHS regulations. Your envelope and letter should be marked "FOIA Appeal." Copies of the FOIA and regulations are available at www.DHS.gov.

If you need to contact our office again about this matter, please refer to **DHS/OS/PO 05-776/Sloan request** in any future correspondence.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Papoi', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Catherine M. Papoi
Deputy Director, Departmental Disclosure & FOIA

Enclosures: 3 pages

From: McDonald, Edward (b2 & b6)
Sent: Sunday, September 04, 2005 11:36 AM
To: mjackson
Subject: FW: DoD FW: Information Paper Final - Sep 4 2005

Here is the current status on DOD support:

DoD Support to Hurricane KATRINA

DoD Command and Control

- Commander, US Northern Command, Admiral Tim Keating in charge of DoD response
 - Lieutenant General Russell Honoré commands Joint Task Force Katrina at Camp Shelby, MS
 - Two Senior Army officers are assigned to Homeland Security Under Secretary Michael Brown, to facilitate DoD support
 - Defense coordinating officers are stationed at FEMA National and Regional Headquarters and State Emergency Operations Centers
 - DoD is providing overhead imagery of disaster zone
- Five DoD installations are serving as FEMA staging areas for equipment and relief supplies: Maxwell Air Force Base, AL; Barksdale Air Force Base, LA; Meridian Naval Air Station, MS; former England AFB, LA – each is a large base capable of multiple aircraft support – and Naval Construction Battalion Center, Gulfport, MS
- 6,061 Active Duty DoD personnel on ground providing support – approximately 3,255 Navy personnel are in the area on ships providing support
- 7,200 total 82nd Airborne, 1st and 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force deploying in support of relief operations in New Orleans – 300, 82nd Airborne on-station at New Orleans
 - 1st Cavalry will be airborne at 0500 and 1st and 2nd MEF scheduled to arrive September 4
- 34,845 National Guard from 42 states are on ground in LA, MS, and AL
 - 2 National Guard Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System capable C-130s are deploying to Pensacola, FL to assist with fire fighting in New Orleans
- Satellite Communications assets moved today from Camp Shelby, MS to New Orleans for Joint Task Force Command Communications
- Meals Ready to Eat – 1.7 million cases have been delivered to FEMA. Delivery began September 2

Evacuation Support

- 831 patients have been evacuated from New Orleans
- Superdome and Convention Center have been evacuated

