

CHAPTER 5: NATURAL DISASTERS

This chapter deals with AFJROTC response to natural disasters, especially at the unit level. It deals primarily with hurricanes, but can be applied to any natural disaster—earthquake, tornado, flood, blizzard, etc. This chapter provides a sample checklist, sample email from headquarters, and information on assistance centers. Our primary concern during natural disasters is your safety. **It is vitally important that we are able to reach you and that you contact us as soon as possible to update your status.** The toll free number is 1-866-235-7682 (ext 3-1597).

This chapter only provides the basics of a natural disaster program. Additional information can be obtained from your nearest military base or your local Disaster Preparedness Office.

NATURAL DISASTER CHECKLIST

- SASI/ASI ensure cell phone numbers are input in WINGS.
- If instructors evacuate prior to storm, contact HQ Operations Support to report your temporary location. Contact HQ Operations Support after returning to unit to report status of school/equipment/uniforms/cadets.
- If disaster strikes, contact HQ Operations Support as soon as possible after the emergency to provide us with status and any updated contact information.
- Ensure that equipment/uniform items are input into WINGS. If possible, store items off the floor so if flooding occurs they will be better protected.
- If your school is closed or destroyed, Instructor Management will work with displaced instructors to relocate them to surrounding units to keep instructors employed.
- After the disaster, HQ Operations Support will work with instructors on cost to replace equipment, uniform items.

HURRICANE PREPARATION EMAIL (SAMPLE)

We are now facing Hurricane XXXX and it appears some of you may be in harm's way. For those units located in the path of the hurricane and being evacuated, obviously our main concern is for the safety and wellbeing of you and your family.

We have learned valuable lessons from previous year's hurricane season. Very importantly, we need the ability to contact you. Phone or email us (see below) with your contact information (city, state, and phone numbers) so we can reach you if necessary. If you cannot provide this to us prior to your departure, please do so within 24 hours of your arrival to the safe location.

In preparation for evacuating the school, we ask that you ensure all Air Force equipment is elevated off the floor and secured to the best of your ability. This will minimize the damage caused by "minor" flooding

Please contact the HQ Hurricane Response Team to provide updates or if you need information concerning recovery operations. If you are calling after hours, please leave a message with a phone

number to reach you. We will check our voice messages continually and will return your call. We will also be checking our email messages, so you may also email the HQ Ops Support.

Toll Free: 866-235-7682
(334) 953-1597 or 7513

We intend to keep everyone posted via WINGS on the status of units/instructors affected by Hurricane XXXXXXXX.

Sincerely, Headquarters Staff

ASSISTANCE CENTERS

Tailor the following list to your local area:

Barksdale AFB LA – Family Assistance Center (318)456-8400/8511 Theresa Marvin (FSC Director)
Financial Assistance, Referral, Crisis Counseling Support, Hot Meals, Free Calling Cards (They don't have adopt a family)

Columbus AFB MS – Evacuee Service Center (662)434-2790 (24 hrs) MSgt Coleman (Family Readiness NCO)
Financial Assistance, Referral, Adopt-a-Family Program, Temp Lodging (have room for 200-300 additional evacuees)

Eglin AFB FL- Family Assistance Center (850)885-4673 (24 hrs) Lisa Splinter (FSC Director)
Financial Assistance, Referral, Crisis Counseling Support and Family Assistance

Maxwell AFB AL – Evacuee Reception Center (334)953-4560 (0900-1900) Mr. John Harris
Financial Assistance, Referral, Adopt-a-Family Program, Adopt-a-Pet, Lodging, Crisis Counseling Support,

Randolph AFB TX – Family Assistance Center (210)652-5321 MSgt Todd Remington (Family Readiness NCO) Financial Assistance, Crisis Counseling Support, Family Assistance, Referral, Lodging, Adopt-a- Family Program

Financial assistance is available via Air Force Aid to retirees. In order to apply, contact the Family Support Center at any active Air Force, Army or Navy Installation.

Other Agencies

FEMA (800)621-3362 (www.fema.gov)

American Red Cross (877)568-3317 (www.redcross.org) Salvation Army(888)363-2769

(www.salvationarmyusa.org)

New Orleans Public Schools Crisis Hotline (877)771-5800 (www.alvarezandmarsal.com)

Mississippi Department of Education Response Help Desk (601) 359-3764

(<http://www.mde.k12.ms.us/>)

Air Force Aid Society, 703-607-3073 (<http://www.afas.org>).