



Principal Federal Official Hurricane Katrina



January 18, 2006

To the Men and Women of the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary:

My schedule does not allow me to be with you at Saint Louis. The National Training Conference is an outstanding event that continues to build and broaden competencies in the Auxiliary. I did want to pass on to you all my extreme admiration and thanks for the selfless contribution of Auxiliarists who responded locally and those who deployed in support of the Federal response to the multiple hurricanes this year. As the Principal Federal Official (PFO) for Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and the response and recovery efforts along the Gulf Coast, there were certain constants that I could rely upon to be ready, responsive and resolute during the trying times that followed the most devastating storm in our Nation's history. The Coast Guard Auxiliary performance in these operations was extraordinary in every sense of the word. From responding within your own communities as both victim and rescuer to the important work done for FEMA in Disaster Recovery Centers, you have answered the call. While traveling extensively with President Bush, members of congress, foreign dignitaries, and senior executives of local, state and federal governments, I encountered Coast Guard Auxiliary members every step of the way. You have made me very proud of my career long association with your dedicated organization.

Thank you for your continued support and I look forward to thanking you personally in the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. Allen".

VADM Thad W. Allen, U.S. Coast Guard
Principal Federal Official
Hurricanes Katrina and Rita