



U.S. COAST GUARD



Homeland Security

Flag Voice 275

Quick Links

[Human Resources Home](#)[Be a Part of the Coast Guard:](#)

- »»Military Careers
- »»Civilian Opportunities
- »»Learn about the Reserve
- »»Coast Guard Academy

[Flag Voice](#)[»»Biography of the Assistant Commandant for Human Resources](#)[Future Force](#)[Contact Us](#)

Other Links

[Department of Homeland Security \(DHS\)](#)[Department of Transportation \(DOT\)](#)[Coast Guard Retirees](#)[Coast Guard News and Information](#)[Military Locator](#)

*******FLAG VOICE 275*******

HURRICANE KATRINA AND RITA PEOPLE SUPPORT UPDATE

This is an update to the recent Flag Voices on initiatives we have undertaken to support our people in areas affected by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. This Flag Voice specifically discusses steps taken by the Personnel Command (CGPC) to mitigate the hardships on active duty enlisted members and officers assigned in those areas, along with enlisted assignment priority adjustments for members reporting to certain D8 units in the coming two years.

During the weeks following the hurricanes, assignment officers from CGPC-opm and epm traveled throughout the hurricane zones to meet with individuals and unit command cadres to gain a full understanding of the breadth and scope of individual hardships. CGPC continues to work closely with the D8 staff and impacted units to explore potential assignment interventions that might help alleviate individual hardships, while also ensuring units remain appropriately staffed to preserve operational readiness. Since early September, CGPC has catalogued more than 277 cases of individual hardships to ensure the needs of every member were captured and to help gauge the level and type of assignment interventions necessary.

In many cases, CGPC has issued PCS orders or made early assignment decisions to help hurricane-affected members take care of their dependents or to assist them with long-term planning. Specifically:

CGPC has issued PCS orders to 3 officers and 26 enlisted members to transfer them out of the hurricane-damaged zone altogether. While each individual situation varies, some members were single parents with urgent dependent care issues. Others faced similarly daunting circumstances and had few options available if they remained in the area.

CGPC made early assignment decisions for 7 officers and 20 enlisted members, so they could move their displaced dependents to their next PCS location. In such cases, the active duty members will rotate during the normal summer transfer season to rejoin their families.

CGPC has also approved tour length extensions for 7 officers and 17 enlisted members currently assigned in D8. This early notice allows members additional time to restore their homes, assist their extended families, or even complete college plans interrupted by the hurricanes. In some cases, members asked for and were granted extensions because they wanted to help rebuild their Coast Guard unit following the hurricanes.

In many cases, individual members elected to defer any offered assignment

intervention because they wanted to compete for highly desirable billets during the normal assignment process. In other cases, the members' original circumstances (e.g., housing, dependent separation, schools) have improved to the point that an assignment intervention is no longer appropriate.

Using a "triage" approach, CGPC has attempted to address the most pressing needs first. The assignment officers are still reviewing approximately 21 open cases, discussing the circumstances with affected members, unit command cadre and command chiefs, and evaluating appropriate assignment interventions.

As recovery efforts continue throughout the Eighth District, it has become clear that some regions will not see a full recovery for months or even years to come. Our members assigned to Coast Guard units in these areas may have fewer options available due to the widespread devastation to available housing, medical services, schools, and other infrastructure. In recognition of those expected hardships, I've directed CGPC to upgrade the Assignment Priority for enlisted members assigned to units located in Grand Isle and Venice, Louisiana, and in Gulfport, Mississippi. Members currently assigned to those units will be granted an Assignment Priority 4 (ashore) or 2 (afloat) for their next assignment. Similarly, members who are ordered into those units during AY06 and AY07 will receive the same Assignment Priority when they complete a full tour. Details will be outlined in an upcoming ALCOAST.

What cannot be forgotten, despite our desire to alleviate obvious hardships experienced by those who have weathered the storms, is the continuing need to maintain the readiness of the affected units, and to ensure billets at those units are filled by experienced and qualified people. Equally important is a realization and understanding by members throughout the Coast Guard that our actions to ease the burden on those affected by the hurricanes may result in some necessary adjustments in other assignments as well. Through close personal attention to the individual needs of all, and by flexibly using the many tools already available to us, I hope we can help each of our fellow Coast Guard members and their families quickly recover (creating some measure of stability and certainty) and begin anew.

Regards,

RADM Kenneth T. Venuto
Ken Venuto

This page is maintained by [Coast Guard Human Resources](#)

[Coast Guard Home Page](#)

[Customer Accessibility](#)

[Disclaimer](#)

[Questions/comments about US Coast Guard](#)

Last modified: undefined NaN, NaN