

MISSISSIPPI AREA COMMAND
HURRICANE KATRINA - TRANSITION STRATEGIES
October 13, 2005
(FEMA Decisions on Last Page)

I. GOAL:

Provide for a safe, smooth, and cost-effective transition of Area Command resources to FEMA to assure that the ESF4 Mission is accomplished.

II. OBJECTIVES:

Develop, in partnership with FEMA, a transition strategy that:

1. Continues to meet the existing Mission Assignments.
2. Conforms to agency-specific policies and procedures of the interagency wildland fire community (length of assignment, mobilization protocols, etc.).
3. Makes recommendations for camp closures and/or future camp management.
4. Provides opportunities to utilize existing base camps for long-term recovery operations.
5. Provides opportunities for local-resource hiring and/or contracting.

III. CURRENT STATUS:

Table 1: Area Command Responsibilities

Location	Management Organization	Mission	Current Bed Capacity	Other
Foley, AL	Area Command (Joe Ribar)	Area Command	NA	NA
Barron Point, MS	Type 2 IMT (Rick Kusicko)	Base Camp R&D	800	R&D –“Lot 10” and Purvis Warehouse
Vancleave, MS	Type 3 LMT (Pat O’Brien)	Base Camp	922	
Gulfport, MS	Type 2 IMT (Dave Johnson)	Base Camp 3-250 Person Seabee Camps	*1,200-1,600	
Stennis NASA Center, MS	Type 2 IMT (Allen Johnson)	Base Camps R&D & 4 POD’s	Buzz - 900 Glenn - 550	Buzz – Recovery Glenn - Response

* Capacity at Gulfport is currently limited by available vehicle parking.

Table 2: Associated Activities (Not Assigned to Area Command)

Location	Management Organization	Mission	Current Bed Capacity	Other
Purvis, MS	(Frank Cole)	Trailer Staging	NA	Eight ESF4 personnel supported by Barron Pt. IMT
Wiggins, MS (Bluegrass Camp)	Type 3 LMT (Dean Fernandez)	Responder Camp for MS Forestry Fire Suppression Resources	100	
Kiln, MS	Contractor (IMST)	Base Camp	800	
Poplarville, MS	Contractor (Eagle Services)	Base Camp	150+	

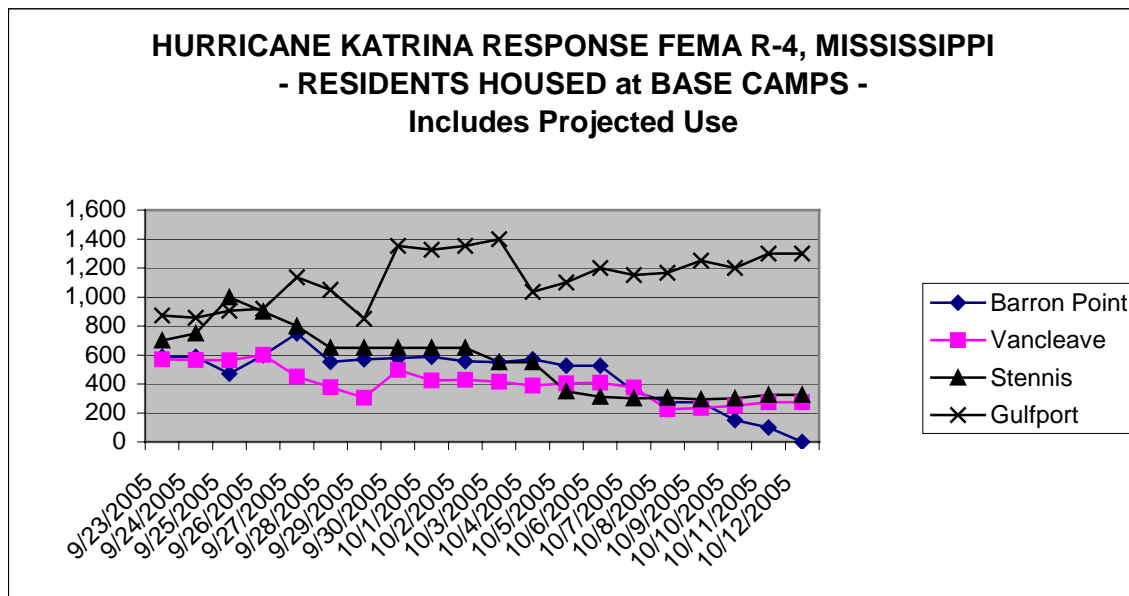
Based on current NMAC and R8 policy, Incident Management Teams (IMT) work a standard 14-day tour, but under the Katrina recovery effort, teams can be extended to 30 days, exclusive of travel.

Table 3: IMT 30 - Day (Maximum Tour) Schedule

IMT	Travel Date	Assumed Command	Last Work Day	Close-out	Travel Home
Area Command	9/28	9/30	*10/21	10/23 ATL	*10/24
A. Johnson-Stennis	9/23	9/27	10/22	10/23	10/24
D. Johnson-Gulfport	9/29	10/2	10/28	10/29	10/30
R. Kusicko - Barron	9/29	9/30	10/28	10/29	10/30
P. O'Brien - Vancleave	9/24	9/30	10/23	10/24	10/25

* Per Agreement with Regional Fire Director

Chart 1: Actual and Projected Use at the Four Base Camps.



IV. DOWNSIZING SCENARIOS:

Table 4 (below) displays various scenarios that currently exist. They should be viewed as opportunities for consolidation that FEMA/FS/Area Command may wish to consider as we transition to long-term recovery.

Table 4: Potential Scenarios

Possible Management Scenarios	Opportunities
1. No longer needed for response efforts.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Barron Point Camp by 10/10
2. Move “customers” to another location and cease operations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stennis Camps to Kiln and/or Poplarville.
3. Transfer management to FEMA Operations which could include hiring MS Commission of Forestry persons who were reduced in force and/or MS National Guard personnel.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vancleave • Stennis POD’s & R&D
4. Transfer management to another IMT/LMT (Team rotation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stennis Camps • Vancleave • Gulfport
5. Transfer management to FEMA contractor.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vancleave • Gulfport • Stennis
6. Combine management with another IMT.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vancleave managed by Gulfport IMT

V. Narrative and Current Recommendations:

A. Barron Point:

This responder base camp is also logistically supporting the Purvis trailer staging area and warehouse (two different organizations). Purvis Warehouse is not assigned to Area Command. However, the responder use of Barron Point is rapidly dropping off and will be at less than 100 customers by Monday, October 10. The following is recommended:

- Provide base camp services through Tuesday night, and then have customers move to another existing camp. Tear down camp by October 12. Closeout Kusicko’s North Idaho T2IMT Thursday October 13 by Area Command.
- The “Lot 10” R&D Center at Camp Shelby will be transitioned to the Purvis Warehouse by Monday afternoon. FEMA needs to assume full management responsibility at Purvis Warehouse by Monday October 10.
- “Camp Forrest” will be closed by Saturday, October 8.
- Complete transition from FS management to FEMA at Purvis Trailer Staging.

B. Vancleave:

Vancleave appears to be needed on a long-term basis for recovery efforts due to its location. It is an excellent facility. Two primary alternatives exist:

1. Transition with a FEMA contractor and transfer command end of day October 20 (preferred).
2. Conduct transition with Gulfport T2 IMT and transfer command end of day on October 11.
 - Closeout with O'Brien T3 LMT October 14 by Area Command.

C. Stennis:

Stennis has two camps, an R&D, and four POD's. The Buzz Camp (intended for long-term recovery personnel) is not yet fully functional with no current use. The Glenn Camp is operational and serving both response and recovery personnel at this time. Given this current information:

- Work towards turning the R&D and four POD's back to the County or State by October 14. As an alternative, have FEMA Operations manage the R&D and four POD's with MS Commission of Forestry employees or MS National Guard by October 14.
- FEMA would assume management responsibility for both camps by Friday, October 14 (Combine Glenn Camp with Buzz Camp).
- FEMA would explore opportunities to move customers to Kiln (contractor) camp (Close Buzz and Glenn), or close Kiln and move contractor to Buzz.
- Closeout with the A. Johnson T2 IMT Friday, October 14.

Gulfport:

This camp has the largest customer base and appears to be needed for long-term recovery efforts. The IMT is also logistically supporting the three 250 person camps constructed by the SeaBees. Therefore:

- Continue under current management with Dave Johnson's T2 IMT until Thursday October 20.
- Dave Johnson's IMT will be managing Vancleave beginning October 11.
- Make a determination by October 15 (with information available at that time) whether to replace Dave Johnson's IMT in kind (T2 IMT), with a T3 LMT, or have FEMA Operations manage it with State personnel or a contractor.
- Dave Johnson's T2 IMT closeout on Friday, October 21 by R8 Operations.

Mississippi Area Command:

Joe Ribar's last workday, if needed, is Friday, October 21 to meet a travel home date of October 24 per agreement with the Regional Director. However, the following scenario appears reasonable:

S:\Katrina Area Command\Planning_Section\Demobilization Unit\disengage.doc

If the above recommendations occur, the timelines in Table 5 are recommended:

Table 5: Recommended Timelines

Date	Action	Remaining IMT/LMT
October 11	Closeout with O'Brien (Vancleave). D. Johnson's IMT (Gulfport) assumes command.	3 – Stennis, Gulfport/Vancleave, Barron Point
October 13	Closeout with Kusicko (Barron Point)	2 - Stennis, Gulfport/Vancleave
October 14	FEMA assumes management or Area Command replaces A. Johnson.	2 – Stennis, Gulfport/Vancleave
October 15	Closeout with A. Johnson's IMT (Stennis).	1 or 2 - Gulfport/Vancleave T2 IMT and Stennis IMT, LMT or contract.
October 16	R8 Operations assume oversight of Gulfport IMT.	1 or 2 - Gulfport/Vancleave T2 IMT and Stennis IMT, LMT or contract.
October 17	Area Command Closeout with R8	1 or 2 - Gulfport/Vancleave T2 IMT and Stennis IMT, LMT or contract.

Decisions are on page 6

The following decisions were made between Area Command and FEMA at Jackson:

- A. Barron Point: FEMA concurred with the recommendation to close this camp effective 1200 hours Wednesday, October 12.
- B. Vancleave: FEMA concurred with the recommendation to consolidate management with the Gulfport operation. This occurred 1800 hours Tuesday, October 11.
- C. Stennis: FEMA required a Forest Service presence for this operation. Therefore a replacement Type 2 Incident Management Team was ordered October 11. FEMA also concurred with closing Camp Glenn and moving residents to Camp Buzz.
- D. Gulfport: FEMA required a Forest Service presence for this operation. Therefore a replacement team should be ordered.
- E. Mississippi Area Command: FEMA concurred with the demobilization schedule for Team 2 Area Command.

On October 12, the following timelines are in effect:

Wednesday October 12: Closeout of Vancleave T3LMT at Vancleave. Personnel stay in place working as a part of the Gulfport Type 2 IMT.

Thursday October 13: Closeout of Rick Kusicko IMT (Barron Point) at 0800. Allen Johnson replacement IMT (Dave LaFave – Washington DNR) will arrive Stennis to be in place by approximately 2000.

Friday October 14: In-brief LaFave Type 2 IMT at Stennis at 1000 hours by Area Command.

Saturday October 15: Area Command to out-brief Allen Johnson (Stennis) Type 2 IMT at 1500 hours. Area Command authority transfers back to Region 8 Operations effective 1800 hours.

Sunday October 16: Area Command returns to Atlanta bringing their rental vehicles and Barron Point Incident Package.

Monday October 17: Area Command close out with Region 8 Operations 1100 hours at place to be determined.

Recommendations for future management in Mississippi:

1. Area Command recommends that two operations personnel be co-located with ESF4 in Jackson to continue oversight of the two remaining IMT's. The alternative is to have one person in Jackson and another person from Atlanta to continue in Area Command's role of IMT oversight. We suggest a transition with Mike Dudley in Jackson on Saturday October 15.
2. Order a Type 2 IMT to replace Dave Johnson's at Gulfport/Vancleave in time to transfer command by 1800 hours on October 23.