



COMMANDO

Any Time Any Place

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16th Special Operations Wing, Hurlburt Field, Fla.

Sept. 22, 2004

USSOCOM commander, SAF/IE visits base, assesses damage

By Capt. Tom Knowles
Public Affairs

Gen. Bryan "Doug" Brown, Special Operations Command commander and Nelson Gibbs, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations, Environment and Logistics visited Hurlburt Field during two separate visits today to show their support and assess damages sustained by the installation due to Hurricane Ivan.



General Bryan "Doug" Brown
USSOCOM
commander

General Brown and Mr. Gibbs were greeted at the base flightline by Lt. Gen.

Mike Wooley, Air Force Special Operations Command, commander and Col. O.G. Mannon, 16th Special Operations Wing, commander.

During their respective visits, both attended briefings highlighting base recovery efforts and toured damaged facilities. Before departing the base today, each met with over 100 "ride-out" team personnel, tasked with staying on base during the storm as part of the initial recovery team. The team was responsible for securing the base, assessing damage caused by the storm, repairing or removing debris and beginning the process of bringing the base back to operational status. The general and Mr. Gibbs lauded the team for their courage and praised the base's overall recovery efforts.

As the USSOCOM commander, General

Brown leads the unified command responsible for directing approximately 47,000 active duty and reserve component special operations, psychological operations and civil affairs forces from the Army, Navy and Air Force under a single commander.

As Assistant Secretary, Mr. Gibbs heads three division departments that deal at the policy level with Air Force facility and logistical issues. The department's responsibilities include installations, military construction, base closure and realignment; environment, safety and occupational health issues; and all logistical matters.



Nelson Gibbs
SAF/IE

REDHORSE lends helping hand in repairing homes after storm

By Vanessa Adame
Public Affairs

Units all across Hurlburt Field are helping to clean up the damage Hurricane Ivan left behind, and the 823rd REDHORSE Squadron is no exception.

Approximately 20 squadron members met at Commando Village today alongside exterminators and tree trimming companies to tackle damage to the community's homes as a result of the hurricane.

The service members worked in small groups, making their way around the winding housing division to repair approximately 60 homes. Although habitable, many of the homes siding were torn off from the hurricane's high winds.

"We're doing what we can so water doesn't do any more damage than it already has," said Tech. Sgt. William Splichal, 823rd RHS, who was leading the effort in going from home to home repairing the exterior structures.

On a home just past the entrance of Commando Village, a team of three service members worked feverishly hammering

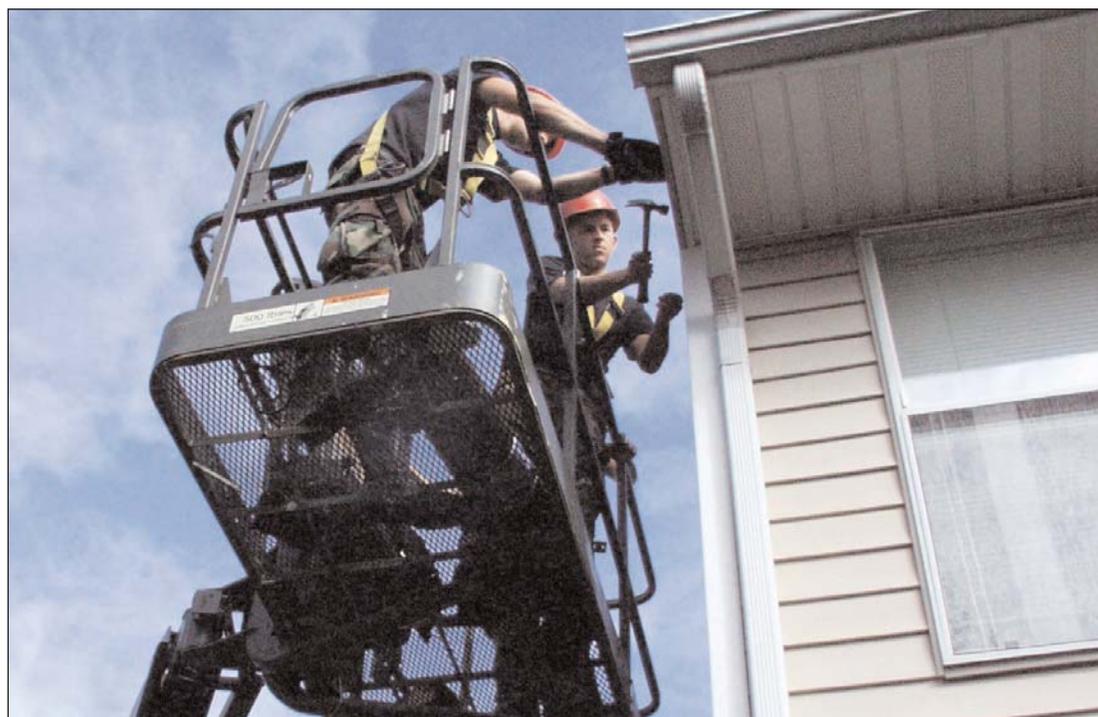


Photo by Vanessa Adame

Members from the 823rd REDHORSE Squadron make roof repairs to homes in Commando Village today. The unit is one of several organizations assisting with base recovery efforts after Hurricane Ivan made landfall Sept. 16.

tarp paper onto exposed wood of the home's vinyl siding while another team next door made repairs on a roof.

The crews are working fast to beat any rain showers headed

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Important phone numbers

Federal Emergency Management Agency

1-800-621-3362

TTY: 1-800-462-7585

State of Florida Emergency Information 24-

hour hotline Call for road information, air-

ports, etc: 1-800-342-3557

State Volunteer and Donations Hotline

1-800-354-3571

Elder Affairs

1-800-963-5337

Florida Power and Light

1-800-468-8243

Department of Financial Services Insurance

Claim Hotline 1-800-227-8676

Attorney General's Price Gouging Hotline

1-800-646-0444

Agricultural and Consumer Services Price

Gouging Hotline

1-800-435-7352

Agency for Workforce Innovation

Unemployment Claims 1-800-204-2418

Salvation Army Donation Helpline

1-800-725-2769

American Red Cross

1-800-435-7669

How to get FEMA assistance:

- The FIRST and ONLY way to get FEMA assistance is to call their toll-free number at 1-800-621-3362
- FEMA assistance is on a case-by-case basis – don't rely on word of mouth on what others have received, file yourself to find out what you're personally eligible for based on your situation
- They know numbers are tied up due to the need in this area, try calling off hours (translate: late at night/early morning)
- Don't call from a cell phone – if you get disconnected or the line turns bad you'll have to call again and start over
- Provide them a good call back number, a work number or a cell number are ok
- Keep receipts for EVERYTHING, if FEMA doesn't cover it you may be able to use it when filing your taxes

Facility hours

Until further notice, or until otherwise posted, the following facilities will be open during the referenced hours:

Child Development Center – 6:15 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Extended Care Programs – available

Reef Dining Facility – Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner

Riptide Dining Facility – Open for breakfast, lunch and dinner

Aderholt Fitness Center – 6:30 a.m. – 6:30 p.m.

J.R. Rockers – 11 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Family Support Center – 7 a.m. – 7 p.m. at the Family Assistance Center. For more

information, call 884-5441 or 877-571-7209.

Information, Tickets & Travel – Temporarily relocated to Building 90505, 884-6357

Chapel Services – *Daily:* Catholic Mass, 11:30 a.m. *Wednesday:* Mid-week Bible study, 6:45 a.m. *Saturday:* Catholic Mass, 5:30 p.m. *Sunday:* Catholic Mass, 7:15 a.m.; Traditional Protestant, 8:30 a.m.; Catholic Mass, 10 a.m.; and Contemporary Protestant, 11:30 a.m.

Normal hours of operations
Library, Shoppette, Commissary, Riptide Fitness Center, FAM Camp and the Main Base Exchange

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this way. Although the repairs are thorough, they're only temporary. According to supervisors, the 16th Civil Engineer Squadron intends to hire a contractor to do permanent repairs to the homes.

"Our main objective is to keep the weather out," said Sergeant Splichal, who said he hopes the winds stay minimal in order to complete the

repairs by tomorrow. "We can't work if the weather doesn't cooperate."

So far the team is making progress. According to Sergeant Splichal, they expect to be right on target if the weather continues to cooperate. Next, squadron members will work on less critical roof repairs.

Similar efforts to clean up the base continue. Contractors and outside agencies are also cleaning up debris and making other repairs at the Soundside Manor.

Post-hurricane safety tips

- When entering any building or home use precaution, items may be loose
- If traffic lights are down, treat every intersection as a four way stop
- Watch out for downed power lines, broken glass and snakes
- Unless you're part of an official recovery operation, stay out of damaged areas and debris piles
- If stopped by local authorities while traveling to and from Hurlburt Field during local curfew hours, present military or DOD identification and identify yourself as being assigned to Hurlburt Field
- On-base members can call the survival recovery center at 884-1154 to report storm damage
- Headgear is necessary when working outdoors and while operating two-wheeled vehicles
- Use caution when clearing brush and debris from homes, as snakes are prevalent after hurricanes
- Wear gloves and eye protection, as applicable, when clearing debris, etc.
- Run water for 15 minutes **ONLY ONCE** upon returning home



Photo by Senior Airman Ebony Pierre

Assessing damage, addressing personnel

Gen. Bryan "Doug" Brown, U.S. Special Operations Command commander, addresses members of the Hurlburt Field Ride-Out Team, who were bunkered down in shelters on base during Hurricane Ivan. During his visit here today the general expressed his gratitude for their courage and diligence while preparing and recovering the base after the storm.



Photo by Tech. Sgt. Andre Nicholson

A contract worker moves a carpet cleaner from one dormitory to another to soak up rain that seeped into the carpets from Hurricane Ivan. The force of the hurricane caused a large amount of damage in many of Hurlburt Field's dormitories, leaving many rooms with wet carpets, damaged furniture and even broken windows.

Forces of nature cause structural damage



Photos by Airman 1st Class Kimberly Gilligan

The mini-mall (above) sustained a significant amount of exterior damage as a result of Hurricane Ivan. The building currently remains empty until it can be repaired. Eason Hangar (right) also incurred damage during the storm.



This section of the base was hit hard with debris from hurricane gusts.

