



Disaster Preparedness and Recovery

***C. Preston Huff, CRM, CA, Assistant Regional Administrator –
NARA-SW
(RACO-Washington DC)***

What Did NARA Do Post-Katrina?



Photo - FEMA

What Did NARA Do?

- **Selected employees got the necessary shots** – & got ready to go in when the situation stabilized
- **Gathered intelligence** (agency headquarters in Washington DC, GSA, DHS, State Archives, Internet, and Disaster Recovery Companies – *BMS CAT* and *Belfor* - Texas based)



Pass Christian, Mississippi...
(Photo – FEMA)

What Did NARA Do?

- **Tracked Status of Federal Agencies** - Created Spreadsheet - 23 pages of Federal, State, Local and Cultural Institutions (*Note: NARA-SE in Atlanta tracked agencies in Mississippi and NARA-SW in Fort Worth monitored Louisiana and Texas*)
- **Participated in Numerous Telecons** – sometimes several a day (DHS/FEMA, GSA, OPM, White House, NARA, FEB's etc.)

What Did NARA Do?

- **Networked** – With State Archives, Historical Societies, Professional Organizations (SAA), etc. Many archivists and records managers (not just from NARA) went to the region to help.
- **Listservs** proved to be helpful in getting information.
- **Agency Websites** proved very useful in providing contact information and status of their operations.

What Did NARA Do?

- **Provided emergency grants** from NHPRC to the state archives in effected region.
- **Provided expedited access** to copies of service records to veterans and civil servants so that they could re-establish their personal information / obtain benefits.



What Did NARA Do?

- **NARA Agreed to Help Orleans Parish at Their Request - (Coroner's Office, DA, and Clerk of the Criminal Court)**
- **NARA Managed a FEMA Mission Assignment that Permitted Us to Assist With the Pack-out of 5 Truck Loads of Wet / Moldy Records. Also included computer hard drives.**
- **Also Began to Work with FEMA's JFO (Joint Field Operation) in Baton Rouge – Providing Records Consultation (Ongoing)**

What Did NARA Do?

- Provided Advice to FEMA (JFO) on:
 - E-Mail Retention
 - Interpretation of White House Memo (to keep all records related to Katrina)
 - Records Management Best Practices



Photo - FEMA

What Did NARA Do?

- **White House Memo** – dated September 23, 2005
“keep all records related to Katrina” (see Howard Lowell or me if you need a copy)
- **Delegation of Authority to Destroy Contaminated Records Constituting a Menace to Health, Life, or Property under Specific Conditions** –
(<http://www.archives.gov/records-mgmt/vital-records/disposal-letter.html>)

