

JBSA focal point in hurricane preparedness

By Brent Boller
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Joint Base San Antonio could be very busy during the next three to four months.

Willie Monroe, 502nd Air Base Wing emergency manager, said JBSA will be a major focal point for local civil authorities, together with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, to coordinate and provide military assistance during extreme weather.

Hurricane season began in May and runs through November. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration predicts eight to 14 hurricanes during the 2010 hurricane season.

"In the past, city officials and FEMA would contact each base for support. Now requests will be made through the 502nd Air Base Wing command post who will relay the request to Brig. Gen. Leonard Patrick, 502nd ABW commander, for approval," Monroe said.

During Hurricane Alex, FEMA requested parking spaces for at least 1,000 logistical and command and control vehicles at Seguin Auxiliary Airfield.

"Lackland was poised to provide billeting, pet kenneling and transportation potentially for several thousand military members and their families evacuated from locations near the Texas coast," Monroe said.

U.S. Army North also plays a pivotal role in disaster response.

"As the U.S. Northern Command joint force land component com-

mand, we most likely would deploy the FEMA Region VI defense coordinating element from Denton, Texas," said Donald Manuszewski, chief of public information at ARNORTH.

Personnel from ARNORTH headquarters would augment the

element, working with FEMA and other federal partners to anticipate state and local needs for military assistance, Manuszewski said.

During hurricane evacuations, hospital patients must be transported from coastal areas

inland to San Antonio.

That process falls to the Federal Coordinating Center of the National Disaster Medical System attached to Brooke Army Medical Center, according to Sgt. Maj. Duane Waddle of the Federal Coordinating Center.

"We'd coordinate with the Southwest Texas Regional Advisory Council and the Air Force to receive the patients at the old Kelly Field flight line, then we'd route them to NDMS-designated hospitals in the San Antonio area."

City of San Antonio Notification System

The City of San Antonio has implemented a mass notification system for severe weather, hazardous materials incidents and other emergencies.

To receive emergency alerts 24/7 via home or cell phone, email, fax and text message, register online at <http://www.sanantonio.gov/saNS/index.html> or call 866-484-3264

The Fort Sam Houston Installation Operations Center will continue to disseminate emergency information to FSH personnel using a variety of notification systems such as outdoor public address speakers, mass e-mails, etc. in conjunction with City of San Antonio notifications.

(Source: FSH Ready Army Coordinator)

Weekly Weather Watch

	July 15	July 16	July 17	July 18	July 19	July 20
San Antonio	 94° Partly Cloudy	 95° Partly Cloudy	 95° Partly Cloudy	 97° Partly Cloudy	 94° Partly Cloudy	 95° Chance of Rain
Kabul Afghanistan	 93° Clear	 96° Clear	 96° Clear	 89° Clear	 96° Clear	 87° Clear
Baghdad Iraq	 114° Clear	 114° Clear	 114° Clear	 113° Clear	 118° Clear	 111° Clear

(Source: Weather Underground at www.wunderground.com)