

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

December 7, 2005

The Honorable Donald H. Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld:

On September 30, 2005, we wrote to you requesting documents from the Department of Defense relating to Hurricane Katrina. We asked that in responding to the request, you give priority to providing communications involving officials in the Office of the Secretary and Task Force Katrina. We asked for your initial response within two weeks.

This week, our staffs met with representatives from the Department to discuss the response to our request. Department officials informed us that the Assistant Secretary McHale had requested all relevant documents and emails from staff in mid-November, and that the Committee would begin to receive the first set of priority documents next week.

We are writing to further specify the timeframe, the individuals, and the topics to be considered as priority requests. Specifically, we request that you produce all documents or communications, including internal communications, relating to certain subjects, received, sent, or reviewed between August 23, 2005, and September 15, 2005, by:

- Donald Rumsfeld, Secretary of Defense
- Paul McHale, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense
- Gordon England, Acting Deputy Secretary of Defense,
- Peter Verga, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Homeland Defense,
- Admiral Timothy Keating, Commander, North American Aerospace Defense Command and United States Northern Command,
- General Russell Honore, Commander of Joint Task Force Katrina,
- Lieutenant General Steven Blum, Chief, National Guard Bureau,
- Col. John J. Jordan, military assistant to former Federal Emergency Management Agency Director Michael Brown, and
- Col. Anthony Daskevich, Defense Coordinating Officer in Louisiana.

We ask that these documents and communications refer or relate to the preparations for, impacts of, or response to Hurricane Katrina, including the Department's efforts to provide food, water, and shelter to victims of Hurricane Katrina, to provide public safety and law enforcement

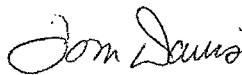
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resources to the areas affected by Hurricane Katrina, to provide relief, including evacuation, to victims at the Superdome, the Convention Center, and the area known as the cloverleaf, to mobilize active duty and reserve forces to support relief efforts, and to provide medical assistance in the affected areas.

As you know, the Select Committee has a very short deadline for completing its work, and we would like to avoid the issuance of subpoenas. We therefore ask that you produce these priority documents by the close of business on Monday, December 12, 2005, which is more than ten weeks after our initial request was sent.

After the production of these priority documents, we would like to have further discussions with you or your representatives about how to prioritize a complete response to our September 30 request.

Sincerely,



Tom Davis
Chairman
Select Bipartisan Committee to
Investigate the Preparation for
and Response to Hurricane Katrina



Charles Melancon
Member of Congress