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**ABBREVIATIONS:** [U/I] = Unintelligible  
[PH] = Phonetic Spelling

**Speaker**

**Transcription**

*R. David Paulison:* Good morning. I'm sorry I'm late. I'm trying to do these things on time, but our Videoconferences are getting longer (laughs) and longer. It seems like there's a lot of things to wrap up. Yesterday I told you the hurricane was Category 5. And it was for a period of time, very short. In fact it went to a Category 4. And right now it's a Category 3. Bill Reed was just on the phone. We briefed the President earlier. And we're still hoping it will stay a Category 3 or less, there is some wind sheer there, but we have to plan on a Cat 3 or even a low Cat 4.

We're focusing on the safety and security of everybody out there.

We're asking people to listen to their local authorities. There are still some people in the city, although it's dwindling people.

Again, I cannot emphasize enough the need to evacuate the city.

There is plenty of transportation to be able to get out of the city.

We're still flying planes. We still have trains that are going out.

The buses are still going out. And please listen to local authorities and move when you have to.

I think I mentioned yesterday but just to remind that the President did sign emergency declarations, pre-landfall declarations for Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas. And that does enable Federal aid to supplement the state in emergency protective measures so they can spend those dollars doing evacuations and opening shelters and making sure they have the right type of people on staff to do the job.

We've been working very closely in coordination with the state and local governments and the volunteer agencies to be prepared for the potential impact of Hurricane Gustav. Beginning as early as last Tuesday we've had numerous Federal agencies on ground making sure resources and personnel were there in a

safe place to respond. Right now we're focusing on evacuations, that is the key right now, making sure that we can do everything possible to get everyone out of harm's way.

There were several issues that came up through the night. We had a couple of hospitals that had not planned to evacuate and decided they did want to evacuate. So we had to get extra resources in there, particularly airframe resources to get those special needs people out of there. We also had several nursing homes, quite a few nursing homes, who were supposed to have had a plan in place to evacuate their patients to other nursing homes and did not do so until the last minute when they found out that this was a larger storm than anticipated. They have asked for help evacuating those people, most of whom are bedridden.

We worked through the night with NorthCom and TransCom and others to make sure we get enough aircraft on the ground. The Texas National Guard gave us five C-130's and a couple of other aircraft and several helicopters and it looks now we're going to have enough aircraft to get all those special needs people out of harm's way to do that.

We set up our National Emergency Family Registry and Locator System. As you remember during Hurricane Katrina we didn't have a system like that in place and it was very difficult for families to locate family members or to find children, because the child locator system is a part of that. And that's on [www.fema.gov](http://www.fema.gov) website. They can register for that. And there's a toll free number to register for that also. That's 1 800 588 9822. You have to register to make sure if you want your family members to find you. So that's 1 800 588 922 – excuse me, 1 800 588 9822 ... lack of sleep, folks.

Now we also have another storm out there. We're monitor Tropical Storm Hannah which is running along the coast of Florida. We don't know exactly where it's going to make landfall, we're a little bit unsure right now, but we have to watch it very carefully. We have a couple of slideshows up. The first slide shows where some of our pre-positioned stuff that we have. We have thousands of meals, we've got liters of waters, tarps, blankets, cots and generators and are all pre-positioned at more than 15 different locations. And there in locations where we can move very quickly into wherever this storm happens to make

landfall.

We have another slide to show you. We have people pre-positioned and where all of our supplies are, our instant management teams, our joint field offices, emergency response teams and right now we have 18 Urban Search and Rescue Teams pre-positioned and we may very well open some more up. So I told you before that we were going to be ready for this storm. I think we're showing you that we are ready for this storm. Again, I can't stop the damage from happening. We can't stop the storm from coming in. But what we can do is be as ready as possible and making sure we're ready, the states are ready and the local community is ready.

When we briefed the President earlier we had all four governors on the Videoconference. And we were a few minutes late getting in and when we got in they were all talking to each other about how they could help each other. A lot of cooperation going on there. I'm very, very please to see the coordination and cooperation that's not only going on from the Federal, state to local level, but also from state to state to share resources. So anyway, we'll go ahead. Admiral?

*Rear Admiral Sally  
Brice-O'Hara.*

Thank you. Good afternoon. I'm Admiral Sally Brice-O'Hara, the Coast Guard's Deputy Commandant for Operations. First I want to assure you that there is very strong Federal collaboration within the Department of Homeland Security and beyond. We have unity of effort and have taken tremendous proactive steps to heighten readiness to respond to this very dangerous storm as it approaches our coast.

We stress early preparations by individuals, particularly mariners. We urge all mariners to heed every warning, take precautions and get yourself into safe havens or evacuate as local officials are telling you to do. And certainly we have strong partnerships with our state and local authorities and the private sector as the Captains of the Port of the Coast Guard work very carefully in the ports that are likely to be impacted to ensure that all of the commercial vessels and facilities are prepared and ready as the weather approaches.

There are a number of things that we've taken as proactive steps. We have issued broadcast mariner's notices so that the public is forewarned. We've had pre-storm flights that have traversed the area to ensure that we have a good idea of who's

out on the water and again it's an opportunity to relay information to those boaters and commercial vessels that are on the water. And, as I mentioned, we've worked very closely with industry.

We worked through different phases of port readiness. There are plans that are in place. We are following those plans with the commercial entities. Ultimately when we're 12 hours away from tropical storm or hurricane force weather, then the ports will close. And we anticipate the ports in the New Orleans area will be closed by later today as will Mobile. We have already secured the ports in Pascagoula and the Gulf port and we are watching very closely the Houston Galveston area depending upon the final track of the storm.

Coast Guard members have been evacuated as necessary but we will not lose continuity of command. Our Eighth District Commander who has the regional responsibility for the storm area has relocated his command center and staff to St. Louis. He personally is in the Mobile area and will make an over flight as soon as it is safe to do so after the storm passes.

We are working very closely with FEMA. We have Coast Guard

officials embedded with FEMA, with the state EOC's, with the Mine and Mineral Management Service, with the Army Corps of Engineers. We're working very closely with the Department of Defense, particularly with NorthCom, and we are ready for this storm.

Again, I'll close by emphasizing that mariners have to heed the advice, take precautions, find safe havens, stay out of this weather. And we'll be the first one on scene as soon as it's safe to get our aircraft and vessels out to start the assessments. Post storm we'll focus on search and rescue and then getting the ports and commerce moving again. Thank you.

*Major General  
Richard J. Rowe,  
Jr.:*

Good afternoon. I'm Major General Rich Rowe and I'm representing United States NorthCom. U.S. NorthCom is responsible for providing the Department of Defense's unique capabilities for disaster response in support of FEMA and the Secretary of Defense has given General Renuart, the NorthCom Commander verbal authorization to respond to the FEMA request at this point.

We are also doing that in close coordination with the National Guard Bureau. At this time NorthCom is closely monitoring



Hurricane Gustav and prepared to respond for requests. I'd like to give you a couple of examples of that response at this point.

Major General Besilica, who some may remember that name, who was the Commander of the 256<sup>th</sup> Brigade of Louisiana at the Katrina struck and returned from Iraq to take command of Task Force Pelican. His current assignment is as an Operational Command Post Commander for Army North of U.S. NorthCom. With his Operational Command Post he is locating at the England airpark Alexander and Louisiana are prepared to provide Commander control of Title 10 deployed military forces.

U.S. NorthCom working with the United States Transportation Command has provided contracted airlift, general airlift, to begin to move up to 16,000 general population passengers and cargo. The airlift is moving passengers from New Orleans to Nashville, Tennessee, San Antonio, Texas, Louisville, Kentucky and Port Smith, Arkansas. We expect during the hours of today to have the Canadian Force's C-17 to be added to that airflow provided the Canadian Armed Forces.

Major General Hank Morrow who is the Commander of Airforce's

North and is our Search and Rescue Commander for our search and rescue over the land was positioned in capability at Keesler Air force Base and Jackson International Guard Base both in Mississippi. These capabilities will include extended range and night capable aircraft to support search and rescue if that should be required over land.

Aero medical evacuation capabilities as mentioned by Chief Paulison, we had ten missions planned today to move 1,000 patients. We currently anticipate that we will be able to execute 13 air missions today that will move up to 1,300 patients that require some type of medical assistance. That could be done. And these operations will continue in Louisiana and Texas as long as we can operate off the runways given the wind.

The governor of Texas has requested 20 active duty aircraft, rotary winged aircraft for the State of Texas and eight medium lift helicopters and 12 heavy lift helicopters have been provided to Texas out of 24 that were ready for U.S. NorthCom and U.S. NorthCom is making steps to replenish the reserve to be if needed.

Defense Coordinating Officers have been activated and are in place with Federal representatives and state representatives, emergency managers in Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas. In addition are emergency preparedness liaison officers are located with Region 6 in Austin, Texas and Region 4 in Atlanta. And we have an additional Defense Coordinating Officer capability located with the FEMA planning group that is looking behind Gustav at the potential of the current Tropical Storm Hannah.

When I talked two days ago we had three military installations as FEMA National Logistic Staging areas. We now have five. These include Maxwell Airforce Base in Alabama, Columbus Airforce Base in Mississippi, the Naval Air Station at Meridian, Mississippi, Fort Rucker, Alabama and Fort Benning, Georgia. We also have taken the steps to enforce protection of our Department of Defense capabilities that are within the potential strike zone. This includes Marine Forces Reserve, their headquarters is in New Orleans. They have conducted their continuity of operations move from New Orleans to Fort Worth, Texas and are operational there. They are dual hatted as Marine Forces North. And so they would be part of an active duty

response if it was needed.

Additionally hurricane evacuation measure for Department of Defense ships along the coast and aircraft in the potential strike zone have all been tracked in those assets, have been moved to safety or properly lashed to the safeguard additionally. Thank you very much.

*Kevin Kolevar:*

Good afternoon. I'm Kevin Kolevar, Assistant Secretary of Energy for electricity delivery and energy reliability. The progressive shut down of petroleum and gas facilities in the path of Hurricane Gustav is continuing in an organized and expected fashion. Before I begin I want to note that the temporary disruption of oil and gas production in the Gulf is a regular and well-practiced event.

It happened several times a year in response to tropical storms and hurricanes. And if history is any indicator, we will be doing this at least once more this year.

On Friday a number of oil companies began the process of suspending operations and withdrawing personnel from off shore platforms. That process should be complete. The Gulf region

produced approximately 1.3 million barrels per day, which is about 1/4<sup>th</sup> of U.S. crude production. As of yesterday MMS reports that 96 percent of production is now [I/U]. Natural gas production is effected to a lesser extent. Gas production for the year stands at 7.4 billion cubic feet per day, which is about 15 percent of the U.S. natural gas production. Eighty-two percent of this production is now shut in[ph].

With respect to importation. The U.S. imports approximately 5.6 million barrels per day, or 56 percent of the U.S. crude imports through the Gulf. Imports of crude and refined product are suspended until the storm passes. There are 32 refineries in the Gulf Coast with a capacity of 7.1 million barrels per day. The companies operating these refineries are closely monitoring the storm as they decide whether to limit or halt operations. Thus far we're seeing those facilities located closer to the coast, this is really in the lower Mississippi River and Lake Charles area shutting down.

Those to the north, most significantly, Exxon Mobil's Baton Rouge facility are maintaining operations. The Department of Energy will produce the aggregate shut down numbers

tomorrow. Turning to sprow[PH], three of the four sprow sites have suspended operations until the storm has passed. Brian Mound remains operational. The remaining facilities will return to operations once Gustav has passed. The sprow is currently filled to a record level of 707 million barrels. It can be released at a rate of 4.4 million barrels per day.

Turning to inventories. The petroleum stock situation is excellent in pad three which is the Gulf region and in the U.S. Weekly crude stocks are the highest for the year in the United States. And weekly gasoline stocks are normal for this time of year in both pad three and the United States. For natural gas platforms, we have 22 natural gas processing plants located in the eight parishes along the Gulf totaling 13.2 billion cubic feet per day. Many of the plants have shut down operations due to the shut in of gathering lines and supplying gas to the facilities are due to the mandatory evacuation for the parish. Henry Hub is down since the Saving Pipeline System declared forced Majeure and evacuated personnel from the area.

In summary we expect to see some disruptions to fuel supply when we undertake a significant evacuation. However, absent

significant physical damage to the region's systems, the record level of supply existing in the strategic petroleum reserve today coupled with the inventories held both off shore and on shore by the petroleum sector should ensure these disruptions are localized and temporary. Thank you.

*R. David Paulison:* Okay. Questions. Oh, I'm sorry, we left the most important guys out. I'm sorry, guy.

*Ed Hecker:* Not a problem. Good afternoon. I'm Ed Hecker, Chief of the Homeland Security Office for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Let me first say that the entire Corps of Engineer's family, many of whom live and work in New Orleans and across the Gulf Coast send our thoughts and prayers to all the people living in the path of Hurricane Gustav and prepare for a hurricane's landfall.

Our first priority is public safety. We continue to work very closely with state and local emergency managers and levee boards and our sister Federal agencies to assist to prepare for Hurricane Gustav's landfall. The Corps is deploying teams from across the nation to the Gulf Coast to assist in missions assigned by FEMA across the four declared states for debris removal, commodities procurement and delivery, temporary emergency power, temporary housing, temporary roofing, infrastructure

assessment and support to urban search and rescue. These teams are pre-positioned to respond immediately after Hurricane Gustav makes landfall.

The New Orleans area now has the best flood protection in its history. Since Hurricane Katrina in 2005 the Corps. has completed the repair and restoration of 220 miles of floodwalls and levees. Specifically floodwalls have been reinforced at numerous locations. Eyewalls have been replaced by stronger T-walls as breach sites. Floodwalls have been armored and transition points strengthened between floodwalls and levees.

The gates and temporary pumping states at the three outfall canals along Lake Pontchartrain has been tested and are working. We have computerized systems remotely monitoring water levels in the canals. Interior pump stations have been repaired and improved, 30 overall. Eighteen completed, eight others in construction and four in design. Storm proofing those pump stations is in progress with 26 projects underway, six have been completed.

As a flood fighting measure the Corps. has placed sand filled



HESCO baskets along an 1,800 foot section of the inner harbor navigation canal to provide further reinforcement should we have high stages. The Corps has 400 large sandbags, 4,700 pounds each filled and ready for use for emergency repairs. We have fortunately many Corps contractors that are working on the system improvement center available to immediately assist with emergency repair. So we are pre-positioned with resources, contractors and of course Take Force Hope which was established shortly after Hurricane Katrina that is in place and ready to go into action immediately post landfall.

We have made significant progress in reducing risk in New Orleans, but major hurricanes may still cause widespread flooding. There is still risk associated with a major hurricane. So all the preparations being made are very, very critical.

We are working closely with state and local agencies to continuously monitor and assess the levee system performance. And we'll respond quickly to areas of distress once the storm passes. I just want to emphasize, this is not just the Corps of Engineers. This is a unified team between the Corps, state and local agencies to preassigned areas of that system to make sure

that we're monitoring it's condition and we're prepared to rapidly respond together. Thank you very much.

*R. David Paulison(?):*

We'll start with some questions. We'll ask that you identify who you are and where you're from. Sir?

*Eric Lifton[PH]:*

General, I just wanted to be clear.

*R. David Paulison(?):*  
*Eric Lifton:*

Can you identify who you are and where you're from?

Eric Lifton from The New York Times.

*R. David Paulison(?):*  
*Eric Lifton:*

Thank you.

The request from Texas, all of that equipment, the aircraft and the helicopters have all been supplied already.

*R. David Paulison:*

Yes. The ones from Texas. I'm sorry, go ahead.

*Major General Richard J. Rowe, Jr.:*  
*Eric Lifton:*

Yes.

Okay. And what role did FEMA play in resolving the bus problem in New Orleans? Did it play a role or was that the state and local government that resolved that issue?

*R. David Paulison:*

It was all of us working together. You're talking about the fact that some buses didn't show up?

*Eric Lifton:*

Yeah.

*R. David Paulison:*

Yeah. It was a joint effort. I think 150 or 200 of the original 700 buses showed up, but then the state gave buses, 400 buses, from the state school board and then New Orleans got buses also from this. So they ended up with almost the same amount

of buses they needed for that transport, but it took an effort to pull them all together. But ...

*Eric Lifton(?)*: [I/U] buses?

*R. David Paulison*: No, we did not. We had a contract in place and, in fact, I should back up – we did provide some buses, but I want to give credit to the city and the state for going out and getting those extra buses, they actually worked very hard to do that. Yes?

*Kate Folwer[PH]*: Kate Folwer with CNN. Mr. Paulison, the overall plan and the coordination and the communication, how has that changed since yesterday's briefing and has Tropical Storm Hannah have any contributing factor into that?

*R. David Paulison*: Other than stress? (Laughs) No, Hannah hasn't had an impact on us yet. We're still watching it and we do have teams in North Carolina. We have some urban search and rescue teams pre-staged in Atlanta so we can pull them either way if something happens. But the planning has stayed the same. The coordination and the communication has stayed the same. In fact that communication system worked extremely well last night. We had all the players in place. So we worked all night on the fact that there were several hospitals that now decided that they were going to evacuate instead of sheltering in place. That threw several hundred extra patients at us that they were not

anticipating. And a lot of these people were critical care patients.

We work with NorthCom very closely to find extra aircraft to make sure we were coordinated and then also we had some nursing homes, like I said earlier, that did not do what they were supposed to do. So that put an extra burden us, those extra patients. So that communication system we set up out of working out of a unified command system out of the joint field office really paid off because everybody was there to resolve the issue.

Anytime you have a disaster like this there's going to be glitches. Things are going to go wrong, things aren't going to go as smoothly as you plan and it's how you resolve those that really determines the outcome. The fact that we had a bump in the road and we were able to get on top of it and get it fixed and find a plan to make sure that we took care of people, that was the important thing.

*Kate Folwer:*

Any bumps in the road now that it's getting closer and closer to landfall? I mean is there any concern with evacuations and dealing with these glitches that people aren't heeding your warning and you aren't going to get out in time?

*R. David Paulison:* Well, I don't think there's that. I think we have plenty of opportunity to get people out in time, it's those who are choosing not to get out concerns me. There are people that I've heard saying they're going to ride this storm out. That is not a wise thing to do. This is a very dangerous storm. It could have a significant tidal surge. The west bank of the levees was not tested during Hurricane Katrina. There were some mature witnesses along the entire perimeter, several places along the perimeter of the levees that have weaknesses and it could either fail or be over topped. So we want everybody out of the city. It does not make sense to put you, your family or the first responders at risk by just sitting there when there's plenty of opportunity to get out.

*Renee Turner[PH]:* Are you saying that ...

*R. David Paulison:* Ma'am, can you give us your name and ...

*Renee Turner:* Oh, I'm say, Renee Turner, NBC.

*R. David Paulison:* Thank you.

*Renee Turner:* I understand that New Orleans has stopped some of the public buses or they're a part of the active evacuation as of probably now. What happens to people who are left after that? And also my second question is what provisions were made for people who have pets?

*R. David Paulison:* The first question is – yeah, we heard that the city was shutting down the internal bus route, or their personal bus route, they have to go park those buses somewhere and take care of those – remember what happened during Katrina. We saw buses under water, we didn't want that to happen. But our buses are still running and still moving out of the city. So people are getting to the collection points, there's still people coming and we're still moving those buses and we will continue to provide bus service as long as there are people or until the winds do not allow us to operate any longer. So that will continue on. People have had ample opportunity to get out.

And I heard Mayor Nagin today give a very strong message that no one should stay in the city and there should be no excuses, in his words, no excuse for not evacuating. And the second piece is that we do have pet shelters open. And the pet shelters are not with the people who own the pets, it's near by. But we have vans that are taking those cages. We're putting the pets into shelters so they'll be taken care of and can be reconnected with their owners very quickly after the storm. We did not do that in Katrina.

*Unidentified  
Reporter (Male):*

[I/U].

*R. David Paulison:* You know, I'm not sure exactly how many we have in there. I think we're capable of handling like 3,500 but I don't know what the population is right now. But I saw several people when we were getting to the videos, there were buses where there were pets in cages and waiting put them in a van to go to the center.

*Lisa Chen[PH]:* ABC News, Lisa Chen. Just a quick question regarding Mayor Nagin's press conference today. He announced that there was going to be curfew at dusk. If there are still people in New Orleans that want to leave that haven't taken advantage, will honor his curfew and I guess what I'm really asking what will people do in terms of the curfew.

*R. David Paulison:* Well (laughs) we have no control over the Mayor's curfew. But we're going to continue providing buses. I don't think they'll stop us from busing people out or getting our buses. I think what he's trying to say is get on the bus and get out of town. You should not be out wandering the streets. Because quite frankly there is very little traffic in downtown New Orleans right now. Almost everybody is gone. It's very light and we're assuming that most everybody will have either gotten themselves out or got on some of our buses or got on one of the trains or got on an airplane to get out of town. Yes, Ma'am?

*Kerri Johnson[PH]:* Kerri Johnson from The Washington Post. My understanding is

the latest predictions from the Hurricane Center as of 11 o'clock today indicated that walls of water fewer than five feet were predicted for New Orleans. That would seem to be less than Katrina. Are you making an evaluation now about how risky that ... ?

*R. David Paulison:* I heard the 11 o'clock report and I heard there was five feet for Alabama when the Alabama governor asked. But the tidal surge that we were told today for the New Orleans area could be up to around 12, 14 feet. So there is a potential for over topping. Some of the levees on the west bank are I think at eight feet. So it doesn't mean they're going to but the potential is there and, again, you know, this storm, when it came across Cuba didn't reform as quickly as we thought it was going to. It ended up a little ragged. But now it's starting to reform itself. So it is moving faster, is a good thing, I mean, it cuts our timeline down for evacuation. The faster it moves the quicker it gets across that warm water and the less problem we'll have with tidal surge. But the prediction for tidal surge is really an educated guess. When it actually happens, we'll figure it out.

*Unidentified Reporter (Male):* How serious in terms of evacuation and displacement – are you going to do emergency cash assistance like you did during Katrina?



*R. David Paulison:* Probably not unless there's a real need for it. We're doing debit cards, that's for sure. When we start doing our – we have an ability now to ... we know where everybody is, everyone who went to our shelters anyway. And we can register people there. And if there's some need to get some immediate cash to somebody who has lost their home, then perhaps we can do that.

If there's a need for it, we'll look at it. Right now it doesn't appear there is a need for it.

*Kate Fowler:* Kate Fowler, CNN. Is there any plans to deal with existing FEMA trailers in the New Orleans area like in progress in order to move them more inward? To get them out of the threatened zone? We keep hearing they could be very dangerous projectiles in hurricane strength winds.

*R. David Paulison:* Well, they are tied down. They're not a safe place to stay. They can come apart during a storm. There is ... probably 14,000 of them left. There's no way we could move that many that quickly. So we're not going to do that. But they're not any other manufactured housing. We don't have the bulk of them in the United States. They're all over the country. And so a lot of things can become projectiles. Roof tile, plywood on a roof,

everything else. So I don't, you know, I don't anticipate that being a big issue. Again, logistically it's impossible to move them. They are tied down according to code. They should not become projectiles. But again, I don't want people to stay in them either. So.

*Unidentified Male:* We'll take a few phone call questions from the telephone line. So operator, if you have any questions, can you please let us know?

*Operator:* Yes. Thank you. Just for the parties on the line, if you would like to ask a question, please press star then one on your touch-tone phone. We do have a question from Spencer Shiu[PH] from The Washington Post. Please ask your question.

*Spencer Shiu:* Thanks. Can you interpret the latest forecast in terms of the projected impact area? There is some suggestion that it may be headed a little bit west of home. Is that going to be worse for the row or southern parishes and perhaps better for the city areas? And then the second follow up on the people who were evacuated by the government, can you detail how many were taken to which places? Where they're being housed? And what provisions are being made for them and maybe a discussion about attempts to register them and what happened with the buses and are the automated FEMA systems up and running

now? Thank you.

*R. David Paulison:* The first question is the strongest winds are on the northeast quadrant of the hurricane. So based on wherever it goes, the most damage will probably occur on that side of the storm. Where it's actually going to make landfall, right now they're predicting just to the west of the City of New Orleans. But Bill Reed said it could be anywhere from the Florida, Alabama line to the Texas, Louisiana line. It depends on where it's going to go in the last few minutes. And we were reminded by Governor Riley and Governor Barbour this morning that the last two hurricanes had followed that same track when they got close to shore, they made a very sharp right turn and went into Mississippi and Alabama and didn't go into Louisiana.

So again, the landfall will happen when it happens and where it happens. And your second question was, Spencer?

*Spencer Shiu:* The people who were evacuated by the government. Can you detail how many were taken? To which places? Where they're staying? What provisions are being made for them? And maybe discuss how well the FEMA registration systems were working since the issue with the buses at boarding.

*R. David Paulison:* We do have that, but I don't have those figures in front of me,

Spencer, but we could get those to you about how many exactly were evacuated. We can tell you how many were evacuated by bus, how many were by train and how many were done by air. We can get that to you very quickly.

*Spencer Shiu:* Got you. And just where they are. Thanks.

*Unidentified Male:* Operator, next question. We have time for two more.

*Operator:* Thank you. Our next question will come from Kathryn Herridge[PH] from Fox News. Please go ahead.

*Kathryn Herridge:* Sir, can you just do us all a favor and copy all of those statistics to all of us maybe in the release? And I may have just missed this at the top, please. What's the expected timeframe for tomorrow with the storm? And if you had to lay out your five key concerns in the next 12 hours, what are they and why?

*R. David Paulison:* That sounds like an essay question. (LAUGHTER) Right now we're predicting storm force winds to make landfall sometime tonight. Probably we're shooting right around maybe midnight or a little after that. And according to the speed of it, we should get the eye of the land sometime tomorrow morning. Excuse me, Tuesday morning, right? Or tomorrow afternoon. It will be early Tuesday morning or late Monday night. I'm trying to remember what day I'm in now.

My concerns are one; the ... the reflating of the city, if that happens, it will be catastrophic for the city. Two, I worry a lot about people who did not evacuate and are trying to ride the storm out. And I guess three would be rescues in the aftermath.

Those are our next planning steps. It will be the rescue piece and then we'll go on from there. We're doing 30 days at a time in our planning to see where we're going to be. So those are my big concerns.

*Kathryn Herridge:* Just a follow up on that last point, if I may. Just give us a thumbnail sketch of what the rescue plan in the aftermath is going to look like based on the information that you have now.

*R. David Paulison:* Well, what we have right now is we have the Coast Guard will probably be the first units in because they're standing by with their helicopters. CBP is there with their helicopters to start search and rescue. We have 19 urban search and rescue teams, 18 urban search and rescue teams that are standing by to move in to do search and rescue. NorthCom has troops standing very closely by to move in to do search and rescue. So we pretty much have it surrounded to move in very quickly. We don't want to delay in the search and rescue piece. So as soon as the winds die down to safely move in, we have swift boat rescue teams standing by ready to get into it if the city does flood. So

there's a lot of people out there waiting for the storm to pass. Once the eye makes landfall and we have hurricane force winds, there's not much else to do except stand by and be ready to move very quickly.

*Unidentified Male:* Operator, we have time for one last question. Thank you.

*Operator:* Thank you. Our next question will come from Jeff Blitz[PH] from Bloomberg News. Please go ahead.

*Jeff Blitz:* Yeah. Hi. Could you talk about how many National Guard and other troops that you have on the ground there. On the Gulf Coast region in general and specifically in New Orleans. And I just wanted to clarify, are you saying that the current effort that you believe you will be able to get all those people out of the nursing homes?

*R. David Paulison:* That's correct. The way it looks right now, everybody that is a special needs patient that needs transporting, we have enough airlift on the ground to be able to do that. And the report that we just received from the National Guard a few minutes ago, there's over 10,000 National Guard troops on the ground.

*Jeff Blitz:* That's throughout the Gulf Coast?

*R. David Paulison:* That's correct.

*Jeff Blitz:* Okay.

*Unidentified Male:* Thank you very much, Operator. I thank our speakers. When

they exit, I'll stay behind to spell out all the names and give further instructions. Thanks guys, good questions.

*Unidentified Reporter (Male):*

How many active in the military and the back up of the National Guard, do you know how many are prepared to respond?

*R. David Paulison:*

We can get that info. The active duty military is all that is stationed in that area. And eventually we wouldn't need that in the areas of [I/U] are prepared to deploy.

*Unidentified Reporter (Male):*

How big is that?

*R. David Paulison:*

It's about 2,500 to 3,000 depending on [I/U]. It's the second brigade combat team tek mountain division. There are three amphibious ships from the Navy that will sorte out of the Port of Northfolk. They vary in size. It's the Baton, the Nassau and the Plontz[PH]. And additional capabilities can be floated as need. The first boots on the ground will be primarily the National Guard. It will be capabilities that the Department of Defense to provide beyond that to include the search and rescue as I described as well as overhead platform capabilities that will assist FEMA in the local jurisdictions and seeing what the strike zone impact is. So the initial assessment ...

*Unidentified Male:*

Ladies and gentlemen, I have to cut it off in courtesy of the folks on the phone to get the news out to them. So I appreciate that and thank you very much.

(END OF AUDIO FILE)