



Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D.C.

September 2, 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR HEADS OF FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES

FROM: The Attorney General

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "F. W. Rodriguez", written over the printed name "The Attorney General".

SUBJECT: Law Enforcement Response to Hurricane Katrina

The Department of Justice is committed to providing all resources possible to help maintain law and order in the areas affected by Hurricane Katrina in and around the City of New Orleans. As President Bush declared yesterday, "there ought to be zero tolerance of people breaking the law during an emergency such as this."

I appreciate the efforts your agencies already have undertaken to provide assistance to state and local law enforcement. I ask each of you to continue to coordinate with state and local law enforcement officials to identify areas where federal law enforcement might be of assistance. In particular, I ask:

- The Federal Bureau of Investigation to continue to deploy agents (including SWAT agents) and tactical assets (including helicopters, boats, and technical/communications assets) to the affected area;
- The Drug Enforcement Administration to prepare to deploy Mobile Enforcement Teams, special agents, and tactical assets (including helicopters and other aircraft) to the affected area;
- The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives to establish a Violent Crime Impact Team (VCIT) in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, with related VCIT personnel and assets, to address any rise in criminal activity in that city; and
- The United States Marshals Service (1) to continue to deploy Deputy U.S. Marshals and Court Security Officers to conduct prisoner transport operations and provide additional court security and (2) to prepare to utilize the Justice Prisoner and Alien Transportation System (JPATS) to deploy law enforcement personnel to airports around the country as needed.

I know that Department of Justice personnel in Louisiana – from special agents to Deputy U.S. Marshals to support staff – already have logged many hours in difficult circumstances. Unfortunately, the recovery efforts in the areas affected by Hurricane Katrina will take weeks and months, not days. In past natural disasters and emergencies, Department of Justice employees have demonstrated a tremendous spirit in assisting those in need. I know that you will rise to the occasion again. Thank you again for your contribution to this important effort.