



Department of Justice

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KEESLER AIR FORCE BASE EMPLOYEE ARRESTED FOR HURRICANE KATRINA FRAUD

Gulfport, Mississippi - United States Attorney Dunn Lampton and U.S. Air Force Office of Special Investigations (AFOSI) Detachment Commander David McLeod announced today the indictment and arrest of Jennifer M. Johnson for Hurricane Katrina related fraud.

Jennifer M. Johnson, of Gulfport, Mississippi, was arrested on January 12, 2006 for making false statements to the United States Air Force for Hurricane Katrina disaster assistance funds. Johnson was indicted on January 9, 2006, for receiving \$8,056.75 from the United States Air Force by providing a false report in which she claimed damage to her home was a result of Hurricane Katrina. If convicted of these crimes she faces up to 5 years in prison and up to \$250,000.00 in fines.

"We are committed to thoroughly investigate and prosecute all allegations of false claims submitted by Air Force members for hurricane disaster relief funds. We hold Airmen to higher standards given their position of trust and authority," said Special Agent David McLeod, AFOSI, Detachment 407, Keesler Air Force Base, Biloxi, MS.

In September, 2005, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created the national Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force, designed to deter, investigate and prosecute disaster-related federal crimes such as charity fraud, identity theft, procurement fraud and insurance fraud. The Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force - chaired by Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division, Alice S. Fisher, includes members from the FBI, the Federal Trade Commission, the Department of Labor Office of Inspector General, the Postal Inspector's Office and the Executive Office of United States Attorneys, among others.

Pursuant to the Justice Department initiative, a local Katrina Fraud Task Force, consisting of over 20 Federal and State law enforcement agencies, was formed in the Southern District of

Mississippi to pursue and prosecute individuals who engage in fraud associated with the hurricanes.

If anyone has information concerning possible fraud being committed during the post-Katrina recovery effort, please call either the DHS-OIG Fraud Hotline at 1-866-720-5721 or the FBI Fraud Hotline at 1-800-225-5324.

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