



Department of Justice

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Middle District of Louisiana

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ANOTHER CHARGED IN BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA, IN FEDERAL FEMA FRAUD CASE

BATON ROUGE, LA – United States Attorney David R. Dugas announced that DERRICK W. DEAMER, age 32, of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, was arrested on July 26, 2006. DEAMER was indicted by a grand jury and charged in a two-count indictment on February 16, 2006, with making false and fraudulent claims for disaster assistance benefits and with making false and fraudulent statements to FEMA. The indictment remained under seal until DEAMER's arrest. DEAMER made an initial appearance before Magistrate Judge Stephen Riedlinger on July 27, 2006. The charges resulted from investigations conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of the Inspector General. If convicted, DEAMER faces a maximum sentence of five years imprisonment and a \$250,000 fine per count.

This individual brings to sixty-five the total number of defendants who have been charged in the Middle District of Louisiana with violations related to Hurricane Katrina relief funds.

In September 2005, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created the 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 Alice S. Fisher of the Criminal Division – includes members from the FBI, the Federal Trade Commission, the Postal Inspector's Office, and the Executive Office for United States Attorneys, among others.

For further information, contact David R. Dugas, U.S. Attorney for the Middle District of Louisiana, at (225) 389-0443. Anyone suspecting criminal activity involving disaster assistance programs can make an anonymous report by calling the toll-free Hurricane Relief Fraud Hotline, 1-866-720-5721, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, until further notice. Information can also be emailed to the Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force at HKFTF@leo.gov or sent by surface mail, with as many details as possible, to Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-4909

NOTE: An indictment is a determination by a grand jury that there is probable cause to believe that offenses have been committed by the defendant. The defendant, of course, is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty at trial.

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