



## News Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **VA North Texas HCS patient reception team assists at D/FW**

On September 10, 2008, in anticipation of Tropical Storm Ike impacting the coastal areas of Texas, the National Disaster Medical System (NDMS) was activated. VA North Texas Health Care System (VANATHCS) is one of 17 VA-operated Federal Coordinating Centers (FCC) around the country to assess, evaluate and direct the transfer of patients to area hospitals participating in the NDMS. The VA Patient Reception Team is assisting city and county emergency responders unload incoming planes with patients air lifted from the Corpus Christi areas to D/FW International Airport.

By noon Thursday 25 patients had been evacuated by plane to D/FW and placed in health care facilities around the metroplex. Officials are expecting to receive additional patients later this evening.

"I am so proud of the speed and effectiveness of our staff to outreach to not only veteran patients, but all patients in need of evacuation from the coastal areas," said Joseph Dalpiaz, Director, VA North Texas Health Care System.

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