



Department of Justice

Acting United States Attorney Stan Harris
Southern District of Mississippi

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MISSISSIPPI MAN SENTENCED
AFTER PLEADING GUILTY TO KATRINA FRAUD

Hattiesburg, Miss. – James Delk of Purvis, Miss., was sentenced by U.S. District Judge Keith Starrett today to five years of probation with 30 days of incarceration, and ordered to pay \$17,534.44 in restitution to the government, Acting U.S. Attorney Stan Harris announced.

Delk earlier pled guilty to stealing greater than \$1,000.00 in funds from the United States Army. He admitted to fraudulently receiving over \$7,000.00 under the 'Safe Haven' program, a program designed to assist military families following Hurricane Katrina. He further admitted to fraudulently receiving over \$5,000.00 in increased Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH) and Family Separation Pay (FSP), and per diem travel pay exceeding \$3,000.00.

In September, 2005, former 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 Acting Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division, Rita M. Glavin, includes members from the FBI, Department of Homeland Security Office of Inspector General, 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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