

HUMANITARIAN AIRLIFT OPERATIONS IN WHICH USAF PARTICIPATED SINCE 1994

Preliminary list compiled by Dr. Daniel L. Haulman,
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2 Jul 1992-9 Jan 1996, Europe, Operation Provide Promise to Bosnia/Herzegovina
longest sustained humanitarian airlift in history.

Short of War book

Air Force Times, 24 Apr 1995, p. 22

100 Years of Flight

Shaw and Warnock chronology

Feb 1992-1997, Operation Provide Hope to republics of the former Soviet Union.
Continued since Humanitarian Airlift book.

10 Sep 1994-3 Mar 1995, Latin America, Panama, Operation Safe Haven

Manual of Military Decorations and Awards, DoD 1348.33-M, Sep 1996, p. G-7
(Humanitarian Service Medal awards)

**10 Sep 1994-31 Mar 1995, Latin America, Haiti, Operation Uphold/Restore
Democracy**

Humanitarian Service Medal awarded for service members providing
humanitarian assistance during this operation.

Manual of Military Decorations and Awards, DoD 1348.33-M, Sep 1996, p. G-7
(Humanitarian Service Medal awards)

1995, January 19, Pacific, Japan, earthquake at Kobe. 17 Jan earthquake hit. 374 AW
C-130s delivered relief supplies.

Air Force Times, Jan 1995

Montgomery Advertiser, 26 Jan 1995, p. 13A

Shaw and Warnock chronology

1995, 1-20 Feb, Operation Safe Passage, after riots at Cuban refugee camps in Panama
7,300 Cubans to Guantanamo by air. "assisting Cuban refugees, Panama, Feb
1995.

1995, 16 March, Iceland blizzard 56 Rescue Squadron

AF Times, 3 Apr 1995, p. 2

1995, spring?, Latin America, relief supplies to Paraguay, C-5 of 433 AW

Air Force Magazine, Apr 1995

1995, spring?, Latin America, relief supplies to Haiti, C-130 of 911 AW

Air Force Magazine, Apr 1995

- 1995, 19 April-3 May**, North America, **Oklahoma City bombing** on 19 Apr
airlift of personnel, equipment, supplies, from all over USA to Oklahoma
see list of Humanitarian Service Medal operations
Air Force Times, 8 May 1995, pp. 12, 14.
Airman, June 1995, pp. 6-7
Manual of Military Decorations and Awards, DoD 1348.33-M, Sep 1996, p. G-7
(Humanitarian Service Medal awards)
Shaw and Warnock chronology
- 1995, April. Aid for Ukraine.** Part of Operation Provide Hope?
Air Force Times, 24 Apr 1995, p. 2
- 1995, April. Aid for Mongolia.**
Air Force Times, 24 Apr 1995, p. 2.
- 1995, 8-11 May**, North America, **Louisiana floods** after 22+ inches of rain in 2 days.
Air National Guard units rescued thousands of flood victims.
Air Force Times, 22 May 1995, p. 16.
Shaw and Warnock chronology, p. 156.
- 1995, 10-17 May**, Africa, **Ebola virus epidemic in Zaire**, central Africa. 349 AMW C-141 and 60 AW C-5. C-141 delivered more than a ton of medical supplies, including 2,000 face masks, 300 body bags, 2,000 caps, 4,000 examination gloves, 2,100 disposable boots, 200 units of plasma, 2,000 disposable gowns.
Air Force Times, 29 May 1995, p. 18
Air Force Mag, Jul 1995, p. 30
Shaw and Warnock chronology.
- 1995, 30 May-30 Sep 1995**, Africa, **Eritrea/Ethiopia**
Manual of Military Decorations and Awards, DoD 1348.33-M, Sep 1996, p. G-7
(Humanitarian Service Medal awards)
- 1995, 13 Jun-17 Oct**, East Asia, Vladivostok, Russia
Russia Relief Operation
Manual of Military Decorations and Awards, DoD 1348.33-M, Sep 1996, p. G-7
- 1995, 21 Jul-10 Aug**, Pacific, **Operation Prompt Return**, repatriation and humanitarian assistance to 147 Chinese migrants and a crew of 11 off Wake Island.
Transportation of Chinese to China. Marathon Pacific; *Manual of Military Decorations and Awards*, DoD 1348.33-M, Sep 1996, p. G-7. AFPC public affairs.
- 1995, 23 July. Relief supplies to Byelorussia** (part of Provide Hope?) 433 AW C-5
Shaw and Warnock chronology
- 1995, 13, 20-21 Aug. Relief supplies to war victims in Croatia.** 60 AMW. C-5s.

Shaw and Warnock chronology

1995, August, North America, **Hurricane Erin**, Pensacola, Florida

1995, September, East Asia, **Vietnam**, **airlift** of medical supplies from Charleston to Hanoi. Shaw and Warnock chronology.

Air Force News Service, message 1043, 19 Sep 1995

100 Years of Flight chronology

Shaw and Warnock chronology

1995, 16 Sep-31 Oct, or 15 Sep-21 Sep, Latin America, **Hurricane Marilyn**, Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico

or 15-21 Sep 1995. C-17s from Charleston, C-130s from 908 AW (Maxwell AFB) flew humanitarian missions to Caribbean Sea islands.

Air Force Times, 2 Oct 1995, pp. 16-18

Airman, Dec 1995, pp. 11-15

Manual of Military Decorations and Awards, DoD 1348.33-M, Sep 1996, p. G-7

100 Years of Flight chronology

Shaw and Warnock chronology, *The Cold War and Beyond*, p. 156

1995, 4-13 October, **Hurricane Opal relief**, North America, Alabama, Florida

Airman, Dec 1995, p. 19

Manual of Military Decorations and Awards, DoD 1348.33-M, Sep 1996, p. G-7

K317.01, 1995, v. 1; K-WG-42-HI, Oct 94-Dec 95, vol. 1; K240.01 Oct 94-Sep

95, vol. 1 and 15; K-WG-919-HI, 1995, vol. 1; K205.14-43, Oct 95-Sep 96, vol.

1; K323.01 Oct-Dec 1995, vol. 5; K380.021, Oct 95-Sep 96, vol. 1; K-WG-16-HI,

Jul-Dec 95, vols. 1, 2; K317.01, Oct-Dec 95, vol. I; K168.03-1240 May 1996;

K360.07, Jan 93-Dec 1995.

1995, Oct 16-17. Hurricane Roxanne. Gulf of Mexico. Shipwreck. Wreck of barge. Search for survivors. 53 WRS. Shaw and Warnock chronology.

1995, October or November, Pacific, **Typhoon Angela**, Philippines

1995, Dec. During MEDFLAG '95, USAF medical teams treated patients in six villages in **Zimbabwe**.

1996, February, Costa Rica Flood. 2 UH-60s, 2 CH-47s. (USAF?)

K-WG-24-HI, 1996, vol. I, p. 83. 24th Wing, Howard AFB, Panama Canal Zone

1996, March 5. Airlift to Israel. Explosive detection equipment to combat terrorist bombings. Maxwell-Gunter Dispatch, 15 Mar 1996, p. 9. AF Magazine, May 1996, p. 29.

1996, 8 April-3 Aug, Operation Assured Response. Between 9 Apr and 18 Jun, US evacuated 485 Americans and 1,959 third-country nationals from Liberia.

USAFE contributed three KC-135s, two C-130s, medical teams. Evacuation of 2000 noncombatants from Liberia. US citizens and third-country nationals. Civil war between followers of Roosevelt Johnson and Charles Taylor

9 April, President Clinton ordered US forces to evacuate US citizens and third-country nationals. US security personnel deployed to Monrovia same day.

Soldiers, Jul 1996, pp. 4-5

352 or 353 SOG, 100 ARW, 11 ARW, 86 AW, 60 AMW, 62 AW, 305 AMW, 436 AW, 437 AW, 7, 21, 67, Special Operations Squadrons, 321 Sp Tactics Sq. MH-53s, MC-130s, AC-130s, HC-130s, KC-135s, KC-10s, C-5s, C-141s, C-130s, C-17s. Other source says operation began 8 April.

AF Times, 22 Apr 1996, p. 3; *Airman*, July 1996, p. 24. AFNS.

Shaw and Warnock chronology

List of "Recent USAFE Contingencies," from USAFE/HO

1996, 20 May-22 Jun. Operation Quick Response. Noncombatant evacuation, Central Africa Republic. Source: Operations list from AFHRA indexers.

1996, Jul 15-16. Relief airlift for Russian orphans. (part of Provide Hope?)

C-130 from 908 Airlift Wing. 21-hour flight from Pittsburgh, PA, Newfoundland, England. Beds, tables, cribs, bedding donated by Orphan Grain Train based in Norfolk, Nebraska. To St. Petersburg, Russia. Clayton Andrews headed charitable organization. Denton Program airlift. Capt. Mike Ricci was navigator. Terry Timm, Lutheran pastor from USA, waiting in St. Petersburg on aircraft arrival. Diplomatic clearances necessary to fly over countries on way from USA to Russia. Maj. Jim Mangie was aircraft commander.

Maxwell-Gunter Dispatch, 2 Aug 1996, p. 2

1996, late Aug. Western forest fires. AFR and ANG. C-130s. 302 AW, 146 AW dispensed 3,000 gallons of water and fire retardant at a time. "The Enemy is At Ground Zero" by William Matthews. 302 AW, 2 C-130s from Peterson AFB, CO; 146 AW, 2 C-130s from Channel Islands ANGB, CA). 6 fires in N. California. Missions from Redding, CA airport. Late Aug 1996. Aircraft dropped retardant while flying 150 knots at 150 feet. By Aug 29, over 5 million acres in West had burned. 2 C-130s from 302 AW, Peterson AFB, CO; 2 C-130s from 146 AW, Channel Islands ANGB, CA.

AF Times, 16 Sep 1996, pp. 2, 18.

1996, 4 Sep. Burundi Evacuation. Civil war there. One USAF C-141 evacuated 30 people (from 9 nations, including USA) and their household goods from Burundi to Nairobi, Kenya; delivered equipment (generator, medical supplies, diplomatic papers) and 2 passengers to Bujumbura, Burundi. Plane from 305 AMW at McGuire AFB, NJ. Evacuees to Nairobi, Kenya.

Crisis: Burundi civil war.

AF Times, 16 Sep 1996, p. 2

- 1996, 5 Sep. Hurricane Fran**, North Carolina. Air National Guard C-130s of 145 Airlift Wing. Charlotte Airport. Flew Army National Guard engineers, security police, generators, mobile kitchens, showers, to damaged regions of Raleigh and Wilmington. Civil engineers constructed 500-person tent city and operated mobile kitchens.
AF Times, 23 Sep 1996, pp. 21, 32.
- 1996, 15 September-Apr 30, 1997. Operation Pacific Haven.** Refugees from N. Iraq airlifted to Guam for processing to USA. Andersen AFB. Kurdish refugees. Nearly 7,000 Kurds processed for immigration to USA
Maxwell-Gunter Dispatch, 24 Oct 1997, p. 14; *AF Times*, 7 Oct 1996, p. 20. Other source says Sep 1996-Apr 18, 1997. AFNS, 30 Apr 1997. AFNS, 2 Jan 1998. Evacuation of 2,106 pro-U.S. Kurds from northern Iraq to Guam between 15-18 Sep 1996. Also called **Quick Transit I.** (USAFE list of recent contingencies)
- 1996, Oct 10-Nov 21.** Chinese refugees to Wake Island. **Operation Marathon Pacific** Is this really 1995 operation? Repatriation and humanitarian assistance to Chinese migrants on Wake Island. See former operation in Jul-Aug 1995.
- 1996, 15-22 October. Operation Quick Transit II.** Evacuation of additional pro-US Kurds from northern Iraq. Pacific Command Joint Task Force (related to Pacific Haven?) Evacuation of 604 additional pro-US Kurds. Source: USAFE list of recent contingencies.
- 1996, November. Honduras Flood Relief.** C-130 delivered plastic sheeting, water containers. 40,000 homeless.
K-WG-24-HI, 1996, vol. I, pp. 83-84. 24 Wing history.
- 1996, 14 or 15 Nov-27 Dec 1996. Operation Guardian Assistance.** Relief efforts in Rwanda and Zaire for Rwandan refugees. AFNS, 15 Nov 1996. USAFE deployed two C-130s to region on 21 Nov. One returned 12 Dec, the other 16 Dec. Source: USAFE list of recent contingencies.
- 1996, 7-13 Dec. Operation Quick Transit III** evacuation of pro-US Kurds from northern Iraq. See Quick Transit II, 15-22 Oct 1996 and Pacific Haven, Sep 1996-1997. Evacuation of 3,783 pro-US Kurds from northern Iraq. Source: USAFE list of recent contingencies.
- 1996, Dec 27 and Jan 19. South Dakota Blizzard.** Airlift for victims. 349 AMW and 908 AW. C-141 and C-130. 710 Airlift Squadron. AFNS, 15 Jan 1997, 29 Jan 1997
- 1997, Jan. humanitarian cargo to Cancun, Mexico** for Mayans of Yucatan. 40,000 pounds of cargo to construct clinic. Mission of Love non-profit group from

Youngstown, OH organized the donations. 911 AW C-130; 913 AW C-130. Denton Amendment airlift. AF News Agency e-mail, 3 Feb 1997.

- 1997, Jan 29. Airlift to Warsaw, Poland.** Medical equipment and supplies, food, educational material. 911 AW. One C-130. Donations from sister city of Hazelton, PA. AFR. 13,000 pounds. AFNS e-mail, 3 Feb 1997.
- 1997, 18 Feb-3 March. Operation Assured Lift.** 17-day operation to Liberia. Airmen from Ramstein AB, Germany and RAF Mildenhall, England took part with Army and USMC special forces troops from Special Operations Command Europe and Fort Bragg. Moved West African peacekeeping forces into Liberia. Five C-130s from 86 Airlift Wing, 37 Airlift Squadron, at Ramstein. 3d Air Expeditionary Group. Commander: Col Michael Smith. Transportation of Economic Community of West African States Cease-Fire Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) peacekeepers and equipment from Mali, Ghana, and Ivory Coast. Maj. Gen. Ted J. Oelstrom, Third Air Force commander. Movement of 1,160 peacekeepers and 452 tons of cargo to join 2,000 ECOMOG soldiers already there for law and order. 49 sorties. 17 days. Peacekeeping troops from Ghana, Mali, Ivory Coast. *Airman*, April 1997, p. 14. *Soldiers*, Jul 1996, pp. 4-5.
- 1997, 14-26 Mar. Operation Silver Wake.** Non-combatant evacuation in Albania following armed rebellion. AFNS, 10 Apr 1997.
- 1997, March 17-5 Jun. Operation Guardian Retrieval.** Evacuation of non-combatants from Zaire, or at least deployment for that purpose.
- 1997, April 7-June 3. Flood relief for victims of Red River of the North flood,** N and S Dakota, Minnesota. AMC airlift. 50 power generators, 900 sleeping bags, 4,000 blankets, 90 pallets of Red Cross supplies. FEMA satellite communications personnel, medical teams from WA, CA, to Grand Forks AFB, ND. AF News Service, 30 Apr 1997.
- 1997, 27 May-5 Jun. Operation Noble Obelisk.** Noncombatant evacuation from Freetown, Sierra Leone, Africa to RAF Mildenhall. AF News Service, 10 Jun 1997. AF News Service, 10 Jun 1997, and list of operations. USEUCOM aircraft.
- 1997, 8-18 June. Operation Firm Response.** Noncombatant evacuation from **Brazzaville, Congo**, because of civil strife. From operations list. Evacuation of 56 (30 US citizens, 26 foreign nationals). Civil strife. 352 Special Operations Group (Mildenhall) One MC-130H Combat Talon II. Mackay Trophy. Plane also delivered 12 special forces troops to survey situation. 21 hour flight, 3 aerial refuelings. Mission commander: Lt Col Frank J. Kisner. 2 MC-130s of 7 Special

Ops Sq flew from Mildenhall to Stuttgart, but only one from there to Brazzaville. MC-130 overloaded. On ground 23 minutes. AF News Service, 27 May 1998. *Airman*, Aug 1998, p. 49. AFNS, 27 May 1998.

1997, 15 Sep-17 Oct. Operation High Flight. Search and rescue missions at Windhoek, Namibia after mid-air collision of C-141 and German TU-145 aircraft.

1997, 26 Sep. Italian earthquake. USAF engineers from Aviano AB and Camp Darby helped. 31 CES. 31 Red Horse Flight. Assisi area. Any airlift?

1997. Oct 3. Medical relief for Bulgaria. Air Mobility Command. Maxwell-Gunter Dispatch, 24 Oct 1997, p. 14. AFNS, 22 Oct 1997. 6 Airlift Sq. 305 AMW? C-141 Starlifter crews from McGuire. One pilot: Capt Joseph Beahm, Jr. \$580,000 in medical supplies, pharmaceuticals, etc. respirators, blood transfusion equipment, needles, tracheotomy tubes, bandages, antibiotics, heart medication, local anesthetics, surgical gowns and gloves, wheel chairs, hospital beds. 35,000 pounds of relief cargo. DOD tasked AMC to deliver them. Presented by SEC DEF William Cohen to Bulgarian government in Sofia. Delivery request from CARE, which donated the supplies. AF News Service, 22 Oct 1997.

1997, 12 October-4 December. Indonesia forest fires. 153 Airlift Wing (WY ANG). Conclusion of operation in Dec. 3 C-130s. 2 with modular airborne fire fighting system, one C-130 in support. 12 or 17 Oct-4 Dec 1997. Under US Pacific Command while deployed to Indonesia region. Medical support from Kadena AB, Japan. Supplies from Andersen AFB, Guam. At first, dropping 3,000 gallons water per plane. Later, fire-retardant chemicals dropped. Java, Sumatra. US Pacific Command. Request of Indonesia. Col. Harold Reed commanded operation. 194 sorties, 272 flying hours. 410,000 gallons of water, 275,000 gallons of fire retardant dropped. 3,000 gallons in 5 seconds could be dropped. Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System. *Airman*, Jul 1998, p. 16. AFNS, 18 Nov 1997; 18 Dec 1997 *Air Force Magazine*, July 1998, p. 21.

1997, 12 November. Typhoon Linda. Vietnam. 62 AW C-141 from McChord AFB, WA. More than 47,000 lbs. relief supplies. US Pacific Command. Flight to Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon) on 12 Nov from Kadena AB, Japan. Tents, cots, blankets, sleeping bags, first aid kits, litters, hospital supplies, shovels, water cans, hospital clothing, from Okinawa storage. US embassy in Hanoi requested assistance. Storm killed 373, injured 742. 2300 missing. AFNS, 17 Nov 1997. AF Mag, Jan 1998, p. 23

1997, Dec 27-Jan 4, 1998. relief for Typhoon Paka victims in Guam. Paka hit 16 Dec. Hit Andersen AFB. Over 12 hours of 150 mph winds, with 200+ MPH

gusts. 236 mph wind gust reported (new record). Sea up to 35 feet above normal. President Clinton declared Guam a federal disaster area. Air Force airlifted 2.7 million pounds of relief supplies on 45 relief flights to Guam as of 4 Jan 1998. C-5s carried power crews and bucket trucks from California to Guam. C-5 carried FEMA team to Guam. Relief supplies to FEMA's Emergency Reaction Team Alpha (50 members). 36 ABW affected. 236 mph wind gust new record. 150 mph sustained winds. 5 C-5s. C-130s, KC-135s, KC-10s, C-141s. one civilian-contracted Boeing 747. generators, transformers, utility trucks, telephone poles, medical supplies, chain saws, cots. Estimated 1,700 people homeless. Paka destroyed 3,000 homes. (contradiction?) sea up to 35 feet above normal. USAF C-5 transported FEMA team to Guam. 50 persons. President Clinton declared Guam a federal disaster area. As of 30 Dec 1997, USAF and Coast Guard aircraft flew 163,000 pounds of FEMA supplies to Andersen AFB, Guam. *AF Magazine*, Jan 1998, p. 23; Feb 1998, p. 9. AFNS, 17 Nov and 24 Dec 1997, 5 Jan, 8 Jan 1998; SSgt. Orville Desjarlais, Pacific Air Forces News Service. PACAF News Service; AFNS, 8 Jan 1998.

1997, Dec 30. Rescue of all 28 from **sinking British ship *Merchant Patriot*** in Atlantic. Pipe rupture and flooding in ship. Rough seas made life rafts impractical. 920 Rescue Group from Patrick AFB, FL Victims taken to Marsh Harbor at Great Abaco Island in the Bahamas. Hoisted by helicopter 30 Dec. Two HH-30s, one HC-130. Coast Guard and USAF rescued 28, took them to Marsh Harbor, Great Abaco Island, Bahamas. *AF Magazine*, Mar 1998, p. 19. AFNS, 5 Jan 1998.

1997, Dec 30-Jan 4, 1998. Operation Haydrop. Airlift of feed to stranded cattle snowbound after blizzard. New Mexico. More than 50,000 pounds of feed. 25,000 cattle had died because of winter storms. Request from New Mexico Governor Gary Johnson. 22 inches of snow had closed highways. Bales of hay dropped. 180,000 cattle stranded without food. Five ANG C-130s. New Mexico. ANG units from OK, TX, WY 137 Airlift Wing from OK, lead unit; 3 aircraft, over 50 people. 2 aircraft from 136 Airlift Wing from Dallas, TX. and 153 Airlift Wing, Cheyenne, WY. AFNS, 2 Jan 1998, 16 and 17 Jan 1998.

1998, Jan. Chinese earthquake relief. Hebei Province. One C-17. 437 Airlift Wing. More than 81,000 pounds. From Kadena AB, Japan. Blankets, sleeping bags, medical supplies, food, clothing. *AF Mag*, Mar 1998, pp. 17-18. AFNS, 17, 20 Jan 1998. *Airman*, Oct 1998. *Montgomery Advertiser*, 19 Jan 1998.

1998, 21 Jan-25 Mar. Operation Noble Response. Humanitarian operation in Kenya. Joint Task Force Kenya. 43 Airlift Wing. Sp Ops Command or AF Reserve Command (AFRC) or both. Joint Task Force Kenya.

Airman, Jun 1998, p. 15.

1998, January. Blizzard relief, Maine, New York, and Canada. Ice storm. AMC. C-17s from 437 AW, Charleston AFB; C-5s from 436 AW, Dover AFB. 106 Rescue Wing (NY ANG) MH-60 used. AMC delivered supplies to Maine after ice storm there on 7 Jan. to Montreal (437 AW) C-17. Ice storm hit 7 Jan. *AF Mag*, Mar 1998, p. 15, 17-18. *Airman*, Sep 1998, p. 16. AFNS, 15 Jan 1998; 20 Jan 1998.

1998, May. Floods and landslides in Ecuador. 251 dead, 59 missing. 24 WG in Panama (Howard AFB) took supplies (wheelbarrows and plastic sheeting) from Quito to N. coast. Manabi region. Also from Guayaquil. Medicines, mattresses, bananas. 10 May, flew wheelbarrows and plastic sheeting from Quito to Manabi. 11 May flew medicines, mattresses, bananas, from Guayaquil to region. Some air-dropping of bananas. Floods and mudslides from 6 months of rain washed out roads. USAF used seven small C-27A cargo planes because of small airfields. El Nino weather. 24 Operations Group. Some air-dropping of bananas. SSgt John B. Dendy IV, 24 Wing Public Affairs. *Airman*, Jul 1998, p. 15. AFNS, 27 May 1998. 24 Wing history: K-WG-24-HI, 1998, vol. I, pp. 21-22. two C-27s involved.

1998, 10 June. Operation Shepherd Venture. Noncombatant evacuation operation from Guinea-Bissau. List of operations.

1998, June 27. Earthquake in Turkey. 6.3 on Richter scale. 144 dead, 1,500 injured. Near Incirlik. Unknown if USAF flights. AFNS, 6 Jul 1998.

1998, July 2-5. Florida forest fires. AMC airlift. C-5s. airlift of fire fighters and equipment. 13 missions from March AFB and Travis AFB, CA, and Klamath Falls, OR, and Ellsworth AFB, SD. To Patrick AFB, FL, and NAS Jacksonville. 65 fire trucks airlifted; 7 brush trucks. Two C-141s, South Dakota to Florida 4 Jul weekend. 68 Airlift Squadron. 1,900 fires. 450,000 acres burned. Since 2 Jul 1998, when FEMA asked AMC help. C-5 from Travis to Jacksonville 4 July. First of a series of C-5 and C-141 flights. Tanker Airlift Control Center. 12 missions. 300 passengers, 740 tons of firefighting equipment. Last aircraft landed 5 July. 721 TACE from McGuire AFB, NJ supervised movement of equipment at Jacksonville. *Airman*, Aug 1998, p. 14. AFNS, 8 Jul 1998.

1998, mid-late July, Tsunami, Papua New Guinea. 8 Airlift Squadron. One C-141. 20,000 pounds. Medical supplies, water, tents, cots, plastic sheeting. Guam to New Guinea. Australian C-130s took supplies from airport to flooded area. Tsunami hit 17 July.

Airman, Aug 1998

1998, 8-10 Aug or 11 and 15 Aug. China flood relief. After heavy rains. Over 2000 dead. 2.5 million homeless. 13 million evacuees. \$15 billion in damage. 2 relief missions flown. C-141 from McChord AFB, WA took 20 tons of water jugs, blankets, tents, plastic sheeting from Andersen AFB, Guam, to Kadena AB, Japan (Okinawa). On from there to Changsha, China (south of worst flood area), 10 Aug. Other mission not USAF but commercial air? 2 missions delivered 17 tons relief cargo. Other source says one USAF C-141 from Kadena AB to China on 11 Aug. first of 2 relief missions. Flew to Changsha, China. Second mission FEDEX on 15 Aug. *Airman*, Oct 1998, p. 10. one mission was FEDEX. AFNS, 14 Aug 1998.

1998, Aug. South Korea Flood Relief. *Airman*, Oct 1998, p. 10 (see China flood relief, too).

1998, 7-13 Aug. Operation Determined Response. Evacuation of injured from terrorist bombing in Kenya. **Operation Resolute Response.** European Command response to bombing of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, 7 Aug-1 Sep 1998.

1998, 9-11 Aug. Operation Autumn Shelter. Noncombatant evacuation from Democratic Republic of Congo.

1998, Aug. South Korean flood relief. *Airman*, Oct 1998, p. 10.

1998, Operation Keiko Lift. USAF C-17 of 15 Airlift Squadron (Charleston AFB, SC) airlifted killer whale Keiko from Newport, Oregon, to Vestmannaeyjar airport in Westman Islands, Iceland. 9-hour flight. 81,000 lbs. total cargo, including 9,050 pounds of whale. Return to his native waters. For Free Willy Keiko Foundation, which paid cost. Whale had been in Free Willy movie. *Airman*, Nov 1998, p. 11.

1998, Sep. Hurricane Bonnie. North Carolina and Virginia coast. Any USAF humanitarian airlift?

1998, Sep-Oct. Relief for **Hurricane Georges** victims in Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Cuba, Florida Keys, Southern Mississippi
AMC flew more than 50 relief missions for FEMA. Delivered relief supplies to Puerto Rico and Dominican Republic (Haiti?). Some to NAS Roosevelt Roads, Puerto Rico. Supplies included water bladders, bottled water, generators, construction supplies, plastic sheeting. 27-28 Sep 1998: AMC airlifted 5 medical teams to Gulf Coast. *AF Mag*, Nov 1998, p. 18.
908 AW took part by loading supplies on pallets for delivery to Puerto Rico. C-27s and C-130s of 24th Wing in Panama. 48 sorties, 58 passengers, 232,740 lbs. cargo. K-WG-24-HI, 1998, vol. I, pp. 22-23. *AF Mag*, Nov 1998, p. 18.

1998, summer or fall. USAF relief airlift to Armenia. Part of Operation Provide Hope.

C-5 from Dover AFB, Del, to Zvartnots Airport in Yerevan, Armenia. \$8 million in relief cargo. Over 140,000 lbs. 100th airlift to Armenia.
Airman, Oct 1998, p. 10.

1998, late October-early November. Operation Strong Support. Relief for victims of **Hurricane Mitch.** Honduras, Nicaragua, Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, Mexico. Central America. Hurricane hit late Oct, early Nov. Over 10,000 dead, mostly in Honduras, but also Nicaragua, Belize, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico. Two C-130s from 357 Airlift Squadron, 908 Airlift Wing, from Maxwell AFB to Soto Cono Air Base and Goloson International Airport in La Ceiba, Honduras for hurricane relief. 27-29 Nov 1998. Staging at Gulfport, Miss. Other DoD units involved. USAF OC-135 photographic observation aircraft charted damage. USAF C-27 from Howard AFB, Panama (24 Operations Group?). Maxwell-Gunter Dispatch, Dec 11, 1998, p. 14.

908 AW C-130 flying relief supplies from Gulfport, MS to Honduras for Hurricane Mitch victims. Weekend of 27-29 Nov, two C-130s from 357 Airlift Squadron flew supplies to Soto Cono AB and Goloson IAP at La Ceiba, Honduras. 25,000 lbs. of rice and flour. Second flight delivered 28,000 lbs. food, water, medical supplies, clothing, building supplies. AFR crews flew more than 100 trips to Central America between Nov 6 and 24, delivered more than 6 million pounds of cargo for Hurricane Mitch victims.

Montgomery Advertiser, Dec 5, 1998.

US Coast Guard two C-130s took 25 tons of food and plating sheeting.

Samaratin's Purse Newsletter, December 1998.

For official source: K650.01-30 (Twelfth Air Force History), Oct 1998-Feb 1999, "Hurricane Mitch and USAF Participation in the Disaster Response" IRIS no. 1128404 at AFHRA.

Operation Fuerte Apoyo (Operation Strong Assistance) Hurricane Mitch relief.

C-130s and C-27s of 24 Wing involved. K-WG-24-HI, 1998, vol. I.

See also 5 Bomb Wing, 355 Wg, 49 Wg histories.

Air Force Print News, 17 Nov, 19 Nov, 21 Nov 1998 (see copy and notes)

MSgt. Louis A. Arana-Barradas, "A Mission of Mercy," *Airman*, Feb 1999, pp. 33-37.

1999, 3 or 4 April-June. Operation Shining Hope (Sustain Hope). Humanitarian counterpart of Operation Allied Force. Relief airlift for Kosovo refugees who had fled from Serbia to Albania, Macedonia, Montenegro. Joint Task Force SHINING HOPE was activated 3 April 1999. Lead elements deployed to Tirana, Albania. Maj Gen William Hinton, Third Air Force commander, provided humanitarian assistance to 750,000 Kosovar refugees in Albania and Macedonia, who fled ethnic cleansing. AF History and Museum Program aerospace heritage slide.

"Shining Hope Aids Expelled Kosovars," *Air Force Magazine*, June 1999, p. 17.

TSgt. Joe Bela, "JTF Shining Hope Lifeline for Kosovar Refugees," *Air Force News Release* dated 20 Apr 1999.
Time, Apr 19, 1999, p. 30. *Montgomery Advertiser*, 18 May 1999.
"Operation Shining Hope/Operation Sustain Hope" FAS Military Analysis Network. http://www.fas.org/man/dod-101/ops/sustain_hope.htm

1999, May. Oklahoma tornado relief. (also Kansas and Texas?)

1999, August. Hurricane Bret. South Texas.

1999, 18 August-10 September. Operation Avid Response. After earthquake at Izmit, Turkey, East of Istanbul. Turkey asked UN for 45,000 body bags.

1999, September. Hurricane Floyd. Abaco Islands of Bahamas and North Carolina. K-WG-1-HI, Jul-Dec 1999, vol. 3; K318.7-436, 1999, vol. 2; K318.7-375, Jul-Dec 1999, vol. 2; K318.7-305, 1998-1999, vol. 11.

1999, September. Operation Stabilise. East Timor Crisis. Violence in wake of East Timor vote for independence from Indonesia caused a UN intervention. Three USAF C-130s, 26 sorties, 313 passengers, 524,000 pounds of supplies. USAF Online News, vol. 1, no. 29, 29 Sep 1999.

1999, c. 11 November. Vietnam Flood Relief. Severe flooding in six provinces and Hue in central Vietnam. American Embassy in Vietnam requested airlift of flood relief supplies from OFDA warehouse on Guam. 353 Special Operations Group. Two C-130s deployed to Andersen AB, Guam. 10 pallets of relief supplies from Office of Foreign Disaster Relief Warehouse to Hue. Nearly 22,000 pounds of plastic sheeting, 3,600 blankets, 5,000 water containers From Guam to Okinawa to Vietnam. C-130s based at Kadena AB, Okinawa, Japan. Landing at Hue, refueling at Da Nang. 1 and 17 Special Operations Squadrons. Sponsors: Agency for International Development and Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance.
Source: 353 SOG Office of Public Affairs news release by TSgt Michael Farris "353rd Special Operations Group Aids in Vietnam Flood Relief"

1999, December-January 2000. Relief for **flood** victims in **Venezuela**

2000, March. Operation Allied Response (Atlas Response). Also called Operation Silent Promise? Feb-Mar 2000. Relief for flood victims in **Mozambique** US helicopters delivered aid to flooded Mozambique. Up to 1 million homeless, Save River Valley in central part of country. USAF helicopters took part. Staged from South Africa. Delivered 15,000 lbs. of rice and other aid. USAF Maj Gen Joseph Wehrle commanded US relief mission. Also C-130. aircraft to Beira, Mozambique. Other flood victims were in Madagascar.
"US Helicopters Deliver Aid," *Montgomery Advertiser*, 12 March 2000.

2000, March. Operation Fiery Relief. Airlift of relief supplies to the Philippines for victims of a volcanic eruption.

2000, August. Operation Joint Forge. Balkans. Peacekeeping operation involved airlifts of humanitarian goods. 908 AW, 302 AW, 934 AW, 913 AW, 317 AG. C-130s. Reserve and active duty units integrated for missions. Under 22 Air Force. Took items necessary to help people rebuild after war. "Reservists Support Operation Joint Forge," by MSgt. Ellen Hatfield Wilt. Published in Maxwell/Gunter Dispatch, Aug 25, 2000, p. 14.

2000, Oct. airlift of victims of terrorist attack on *USS Cole*.

2001, 31 Jan-1 February. Relief for earthquake victims in India. C-5s, C-17s, KC-135s. supplies from California to Guam to India. Earthquake hit 26 Jan. Two USAF C-5 aircraft missions 31 Jan and 1 Feb after six-person communications, logistics, and medical support team from US Pacific Command flew in to assess needs. Loads: a 2.2-ton truck, two forklifts, two 400-gallon water trailers, 10,000 blankets, 1,500 sleeping bags, 92 large tents. C-5s landed in Guam, transferred cargo to smaller transports that continued to Ahmadabad in heart of disaster zone. Source: Air Force Magazine, April 2001, p. 18.

2001, 12 Apr. Operation Valiant Return. Airlift of U.S. military personnel who had been held by China after airplane collision and forced landing. After having been moved from China to Guam, they were flown from Guam to Hawaii by US military aircraft.

2001, September. Response to **terrorist attacks** in New York and Washington.

2001, 7 October-31 May 2002 (or 7 October-21 Dec 2001). C-17s dropped food to people of northern **Afghanistan** as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. Capt. Elizabeth Ortiz, "Task Force Relieves Plight of Afghan People," 3rd Air Expeditionary Task Force Public Affairs news release dated 16 Jan 2002 and published on the Air Force Link 16 Jan 2002. 3rd Air Expeditionary Task Force-Enduring Freedom "stood up" on 19 Oct. By 16 Jan, more than 2.4 million humanitarian daily rations and 975 containers of wheat and blankets airdropped. Nearly 200 sorties. 437 Expeditionary Airlift Squadron. Some personnel from the 86 Airlift Wing. C-17s from Charleston AFB, SC, and McChord AFB, WA. 351 Expeditionary Air Refueling Squadron deployed at Burgas Air Field, Bulgaria. Personnel from the 100 Air Refueling Wing. German C-160s took part in the relief efforts.

Between 7 Oct 2001 and 31 May 2002, nearly 2.5 million individual Human Daily Rations air-dropped to Afghans. Humanitarian Service Medal approved by USAF for Operation Enduring Freedom. Source: Air Force Association Update, 22 Aug 2004, p. 4.

C-17s airdropped 2.5 million daily rations, almost 21,000 55-pound sacks of wheat, over 41,000 blankets on 198 missions between 7 Oct and 21 Dec 2001.

Regular airdrops stopping 21 Dec. Source: Capt. Aaron Burstein, "Daily Humanitarian Flights From Ramstein Come to an End," U.S. Air Forces in Europe news service, from <http://www.usafe.af.mil/news/news01/uns01437.htm>. Bob Drogin, "Food Drops to Afghans Halted," *Los Angeles Times*, 25 Dec 2001. Mat Kelley, "U.S. Airstrikes Include Food Drops,"

<http://www.phillyburbs.com/terror/news/1008arfood.htm>

Michael R. Gordon, "U.S. Tries to Win Hearts, Minds with Food Drops," *Houston Chronicle*, 8 Oct 2001. in

<http://www.chron.com/cs/CDA/storyhts/special/terror/front/1079672>

Matt Kelley, "U.S. Drops Food, Medicine Packets to Afghan People," in

<http://www.boulderdailycamera.com/news/terror/oct01/08afood.html>

Margaret Emery, Hiram Ruiz, and Jeff Drumtra, "Aid Drops in Afghanistan, A Controversial Affair," *Middle East Times*, from

http://metimes.com/2K1/issue2001-42/reg/aid_drops_in.htm

7 Oct-21 Dec 2001, C-17 airdrops on missions over Afghanistan from Ramstein AB, Germany. 2.44 million daily rations, 42,000 blankets, 21,000 55-pound sacks of flour. 161 packages by tri-wall air delivery system (TRIADS) and 36 packages by container delivery system (CDS)

Air Mobility Command History, 2001, vol. I, pp. 142, 204, 206-207. Information used is Unclassified.

Lt Col John Zazworsky commanded 437 Expeditionary Airlift Squadron at Ramstein AB, Germany during Oct 7-Dec 21, 2001 C-17 airdrops over Afghanistan. To honor end of Ramadan on Dec 16, dates dropped in container delivery system (CDS), although most previous airdrops were by TRIADS. Total delivery more than 3,800 tons.

"Air Force Alters Method for Air Drops over Afghanistan," U.S. Air Forces in Europe News Service, 21 Dec 2001, from

http://www.dcmilitary.com/airforce/beam/6_51/national_news/12804-1.html

Problems with airdrops: packages landing on people, color of food packages like unexploded ordnance, food packages landing in mined areas where people going to get food endangered.

2002, 13 June-. Colorado Fires. 90,000 acres had burned southwest of Denver. Reached within 10 miles of Denver metropolitan area, forcing evacuations. Four C-130s, two from 302 Air Wing of AFR, two from 145 Air Wing of NC ANG. Flew out of Peterson AFB, Colorado Springs, CO. National Forest Service's National Interagency Fire Center requested the C-130s.

2002, 10-13 Nov. Tornado Relief. Mississippi. Area around Columbus AFB, MS. Source: Air Force Personnel Center (AFPC) News Service release no. 046 dated 4 May 2004. Humanitarian Service medal authorized for this effort by Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James Roche.

2002, December, relief for victims of **Typhoon Pongsona** in Guam
58 C-5 missions to Andersen AFB. From Travis AFB, CA. 1,200 tons of Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) equipment and supplies after storm hit

8 December. C-5s also flew 45 people (family members) from Guam to California to stay temporarily while recovery efforts on Guam continued. "Air Force Supports Relief Mission in Guam," 17 Dec 2002 news release from Air Force Print News Today.

2003, May 31 and June 5, Algerian Earthquake. C-130s airlifted 13 tons of medicine, blankets, bedding, tents, portable kitchens, to Algiers after 6.8 magnitude earthquake hit on 21 May. Air Force Reserve. 910 Airlift Wing
Source: Code One Magazine, vol. 18, no. 3, Third Quarter 2003.

2003, Jul 6. Liberia Unrest. Stabilization effort. Joint Task Force Liberia. Humanitarian crisis team airlifted in on 6 July As of 23 Sep, 945 passengers, 648 short tons of supplies airlifted to Sierra Leone or Sierra Leone, where the operation is being staged. Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Source: Code One Magazine, vol. 18, no. 4, Fourth Quarter 2003.

2003, September. Hurricane Isabel. North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland. Evacuation of aircraft. Hurricane struck on 18 Sep. P-3s and C-141s flown temporarily to Wright-Patterson AFB, OH. Any relief airlift?
Code One Magazine, vol. 18, no. 4, Fourth Quarter 2003.

2003, late December-January 2004. Iran Earthquake. Earthquake hit late December 2003. estimated 25,000 Iranians dead in city of Bam. US military sent 150,000 pounds of medical supplies. First aircraft to land in Iran since end of the Iranian hostage crisis in 1981. At least seven C-130 flights from Kuwait to Kerman, Iranian provincial capital. C-5 from Dover AFB, DE, and C-17 from Charleston AFB, SC, delivered personnel, rescue teams, equipment to Kerman.
Source: Code One Magazine, Vol. 19, no. 2, Second Quarter 2004.

2004, February. Morocco Earthquake. Hit 1 Feb 2004 in Al Hoceima Province, N. Morocco. 28 Feb relief mission. 37 Airlift Squadron C-130. 4 pallets of medical supplies and a survey team. A Utah ANG C-130 also delivered blankets and medicine. Code One Magazine, vol. 19, no. 2, Second Quarter 2004.

2004, April. Typhoon Sudal. Hit Yap Island on 10 Apr. 2 C-130s from Yokota AB, Japan. 5 days of missions. Andersen AFB, Guam, to Yap. 11 missions. 31 passengers. 102 short tons of cargo. Generators, water, food, juice.
Source: Code One Magazine, vol. 19, no. 3, Third Quarter 2004.

2004, Summer, Relief for victims of Hurricane Charley, Florida

2004, May. S. California Forest Fires. 5 May 2004-. 146 Airlift Wing C-130s. 12 missions. 32,000 lbs. flame retardant dropped.
Source: Code One Magazine, vol. 19, no. 3, Third Quarter 2004.

2004, August. Hurricane Charley. Florida.

2004, 6 September. Beslan, Russia. Relief for victims of elementary school siege. 38 Airlift Squadron. Two C-130Es. Medical and humanitarian supplies. 36,000 pounds. For treating hundreds of victims of a terrorist attack on a school at Beslan, Russia. Humanitarian supplies included sheets, blankets, medicine, burn kits, bandages, dressings, specialized medical equipment. Airlift from Ramstein AB, Germany, to Vladikavkaz, Russia.
MSgt. Jon Hanson, "Airmen Deliver Aid to Russia," Maxwell-Gunter Dispatch, Sep 10, 2004, p. 6. 435 Air Base Wing Public Affairs.
Source: Code One Magazine, Vol. 19, no. 4, Fourth Quarter 2004.

2004, early September. Hurricane Frances. Florida.

2004, September. Relief for victims of **Hurricane Ivan**, Florida and Alabama
K380.021, Oct 2003-Sep 2004 vol. 1 and 3; K-WG-SPACE-45-HI, 2004, vol. 2;
K463.05 CD 7 IRIS no. 1152299 Aug 2000-Nov 2004 US Southern Command
53 Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, WC-130J.
Code One Magazine, vol. 19, no. 4, Fourth Quarter 2004.
K169.011-173, 2004.

2004, September. Relief for victims of **Hurricane Jeanne**, Florida
53 Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, WC-130J.
Code One Magazine, vol. 19, no. 4, Fourth Quarter 2004.

2004, October-. Sudan Airlift. 322 Air Expeditionary Group staged out of Rwanda for African Union. C-130 flew from Nigeria with 40 troops and 3,000 pounds of equipment for El-Fashir airstrip in Darfur region of Sudan. To help lessen severity of humanitarian crisis in Darfur, where nearly 50,000 people have been killed and more than 1.5 million have lost their homes in recent months.
Source: Code One Magazine, vol. 20, no. 1, First Quarter, 2005.

2004, October. Afghanistan Food Drops. Since Oct 2004, USAF aircraft dropped more than 2.1 million pounds of aid throughout Afghanistan. Many of the missions were flown by C-130 aircraft. The cargo included not only food but also blankets. The supplies aided poor people who were often isolated because of snow-blocked roads in mountain areas.

2004, late October-2 Nov. California Forest Fires. Almost 800,000 acres burned. 8 C-130s of ANG and AFR. 145, 146, 153 Airlift Wings, 302 Airlift Wing.
Dropping of fire retardant chemicals over trees.
Source: Code One Magazine, vol. 19, no. 1, First Quarter 2004.

2004, November-December Philippines typhoons. Flooding.

2004, Dec-Feb 2005. Operation Unified Assistance (Tsunami relief), Southeast Asia.
undersea earthquake near western coast of Sumatra caused tsunami, 26 Dec 2004.

30-foot waves moved at speeds up to 500 miles per hour as far as 3,000 miles. More than 150,000 dead. Millions homeless. Indonesia, Thailand, Sri Lanka. 105 Airlift Wing (NY ANG), C-5, carried HH-60 helicopter of 33 Rescue Squadron from Stewart airport. Dispatched 31 Dec 2004. C-5 airlifted supplies from Kadena AFB, Japan, to Sri Lanka and Thailand. C-5 commander Maj Patrick Lasella. Volunteer aircrews. CH-46s transported for search and rescue teams for finding survivors. C-5 also carried water purification equipment. Last Stewart C-5 returned 24 Jan 2005. 105 Airlift Wing members flew 35 sorties, transported 553 passengers. Airlifted more than 1.8 million pounds of cargo. 105 Airlift Wing news release

(<http://www.dmna.state.ny.us/ang/105/news/tsunami.htm>)

Jane's Defense Weekly, 18 May 2005. vol. 42, no. 20. pp. 20-25.

"Overcoming a Wave of Destruction," *Airman*, vol. 44 no. 2 (Feb 2005), pp. 8-9.

Tsunami hit 26 Dec 2004. Affected Indonesia, Thailand, Sri Lanka, India, Somalia. More than 150,000 dead. Utapao AB, Thailand, an airlift hub.

Operation Unified Assistance. Combined Support Force 536. 374 Air Expeditionary Wing. C-130s, C-17s, C-5s.

"Air Force Aids Urgent Tsunami Relief Effort," *Air Force Magazine*, vol. 88, no. 2 (Feb 2005), p. 16.

Capt. David Westover, "Airmen Passing Relief Operation to UN-led Team," *Air Force Link*, 26 Jan 2005 news release. In

<http://www.af.mil/news/story.asp?storyID=123009687>

AF Association news, "Tsunami Relief Efforts," from Air Force Association AFA update sent from service@afa.org on 9 Jan 2005.

2005, January-February. Afghanistan relief. Airdrops of blankets and bottled water in Afghanistan. 127,000 lbs. C-130s, 774th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron. Karshi-Khanabad AB, Uzbekistan. 13 missions. Container delivery system. To civilians in remote regions of Afghanistan. More than 13,000 lbs. of blankets and bottled water. Source: Code One Magazine, vol. 20, no. 2, Second Quarter, 2005.

2005, June. Aid to Afghanistan. C-130J. airdrops of civic aid and supplies weighing 16,000 lbs. two airdrops near Kandahar. 143 Air Wing, RI ANG. With 379 Air Expeditionary Wing. Source: Code One Magazine, vol. 20, no. 3, Third Quarter 2005.

2005, July. Darfur Airlift. Sudan. US European Command deployed personnel and equipment to Kigali, Rwanda, to support Rwandan forces deploying to Darfur region of Sudan. African Union humanitarian effort. 3 USAFE C-130s taking Rwandan troops from Kigali, Rwanda to El Fahir, Sudan. Multinational effort to improve security in Sudan so that humanitarian assistance can proceed there. Code One Magazine, vol. 20, no. 3. Third Quarter 2005.

2005, August, September-. Relief for victims of **Hurricane Katrina**, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama (see folder). 1st Air Force. Task Force Katrina.

THE US AIR FORCE RESPONSE TO HURRICANE KATRINA

Dr. Daniel L. Haulman

14 November 2006

Media images of destitute flood victims in New Orleans in the wake of Hurricane Katrina generated the impression of an unresponsive federal government. Many critics blamed local or state governments, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and the Department of Homeland Security of which it had become a part. Some also criticized the Department of Defense as if it had failed to furnish the quick and massive humanitarian relief which the American people had come to expect after a natural disaster. After all, Pentagon resources were stretched thin because of ongoing combat operations in Iraq and Afghanistan on the other side of the world. This paper will explore the validity of that impression by focusing on the response of the U.S. Air Force, as part of the larger Department of Defense, to the crisis posed by Hurricane Katrina.ⁱ

The U.S. Air Force was involved even before the storm hit. During late August, 2005, the Hurricane Hunters of the 53d Weather Reconnaissance Squadron (403d Wing) in their WC-130 airplanes tracked and measured Katrina's intensity and location as it crossed the tip of Florida and grew into a category 5 monster in the Gulf of Mexico. Between August 23 and 29, squadron aircrews flew more than 109 hours tracking the storm. As Katrina approached the central Gulf coast, the squadron dispersed its aircraft, which were based at Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi, to other bases beyond the projected storm path.ⁱⁱ

Hurricane Katrina hit southeast Louisiana early on the morning of Monday, August 29, with winds as high as 140 miles per hour. After making landfall near Buras, it followed a northward track to the Louisiana-Mississippi border. East of there, the counterclockwise winds pushed a 28-foot storm surge from the Gulf of Mexico northward into the towns of coastal Mississippi. A combination of wind, rain, and storm surge destroyed countless buildings, leaving a scoured landscape, but floodwaters did not remain. West of the storm center, the winds blew from north to south, pushing a swollen Lake Pontchartrain into the canals of New Orleans. Failures of floodwalls along those canals left 80% of the city flooded for weeks. Of some 485,000 residents, approximately 100,000 who had not evacuated awaited rescue as they struggled to survive without adequate food, water, shelter, plumbing, electricity, and communications. Besides southeastern Louisiana and southern Mississippi, the storm also inundated parts of southwestern Alabama, including downtown Mobile and Bayou La Batre. Hurricane Katrina eventually caused 1,304 deaths and some \$50 billion in destruction and damage.ⁱⁱⁱ

After the governors of the affected states requested federal assistance, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), tapped the Department of Defense for military assistance. On August 31, two days after impact, The U.S. Northern Command set up Joint Task Force Katrina under Lt. Gen. Russell L. Honore', the commander of the First U.S. Army, at Camp Shelby, Mississippi. Maj. Gen. M. Scott Mayes, commander of the USAF First Air Force, served as the task force's joint forces air component commander (JFACC). General Mayes established the 1st Aerospace Expeditionary Task

Force-Katrina at Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida. The task force set up various air expeditionary groups for a massive disaster relief operation. For example, the 97th Air Expeditionary Group was activated at Keesler. By September 7, the Air Force, Air Force Reserve, and the Air National Guard had deployed some 8,000 personnel for the emergency.^{iv}

USAF helicopters took part early in the disaster relief effort. Their role was most important in the New Orleans area, where only helicopters were allowed to fly below 20,000 feet. Late on August 30, the Air Force Reserve Command's 920th Rescue Wing at Patrick Air Force Base (AFB), Florida flew large HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopters to Jackson, Mississippi in order to fly FEMA damage assessment teams to the disaster zone. They and other HH-60s from wing's 943d Rescue Group from Davis Monthan AFB, Arizona, soon began flying search and rescue missions over the disaster zone. Such missions commenced on August 31. HC-130 tankers staging at Patrick AFB refueled the helicopters.^v

At the same time, other HH-60s and HC-130s from the Air Force Special Operations Command's 347th Rescue Wing from Moody Air Force Base, Georgia and 563d Rescue Group from Davis-Monthan AFB, Arizona, performed similar search and rescue missions in the disaster area. The Pavehawk helicopters flew their missions from Jackson, Mississippi, refueled by HC-130s staging from elsewhere. MH-53 helicopters refueled by MC-130 tankers from the 16th Special Operations Wing, home based at Hurlburt Field in Florida, also took part in the search and rescue operations in the disaster zone. Like the Air Force Reserve helicopter assets, they served under the 347th Expeditionary Rescue Group under Task Force Katrina. The Air National Guard's 106th Rescue Wing also took part in the helicopter search and rescue operations.^{vi}

Air Force Space Command deployed eight UH-1 helicopters, two each from Minot AFB, North Dakota; F.E. Warren AFB, Wyoming; Malmstrom AFB, Montana; and Vandenberg AFB, California, for Hurricane Katrina search and rescue missions. Smaller than the MH-53s or the HH-60s, the UH-1s were in some ways more versatile. They came from the Air Force Space Command's 37th, 40th, 54th, and 76th Helicopter Flights. From Columbus AFB, Mississippi, they carried food, water, medicine, and other supplies to hurricane victims along the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The UH-1s served in the 620th Air Expeditionary Squadron of the 347th Expeditionary Rescue Group. Two other UH-1s took part in relief efforts, one from the Air Force Materiel Command and one from Air Force Special Operations Command.^{vii}

Between August 31 and September 10, USAF helicopter crews rescued 4322 people, 2836 of them by HH-60s, 1461 by MH-53s, and 25 by UH-1s. On September 4, the 347th Expeditionary Rescue Group rescued a record 791 persons in one day. Some missions lasted up to 11 hours at a time. The helicopters at first concentrated on search and rescue missions, hoisting victims stranded on roofs in flooded areas of New Orleans to dry ground, but later they carried refugees from shelters within New Orleans, such as the Superdome and Convention Center, to the New Orleans (Louis Armstrong) International Airport, where there were medical treatment personnel, equipment and supplies, and where air and surface transportation resources were being concentrated for evacuation to designated shelter areas beyond the disaster region.^{viii}

Besides helicopters, USAF fixed wing aircraft, including C-130s, C-17s, and C-5s, flew crucial airlift missions to transport both people and equipment and supplies. The

Eighteenth Air Force's Tanker Airlift Control Center (Air Mobility Command) coordinated airlift flights. Col. Jeff Franklin served as lead controller for Katrina mission taskings. Many of the same aircraft that flew equipment, supplies, and emergency personnel into the disaster area also flew medical patients and displaced persons out.^{ix}

The Air Force air-evacuated a total of 2,602 medical patients from the Hurricane Katrina disaster area to medical facilities across the United States between the end of August and mid-September. The biggest day was September 4, when Air Force transports evacuated some 1,500 patients from the New Orleans International Airport in 24 hours. Many of the medical evacuees flew to San Antonio or Houston, Texas. For example, a C-5 of the 433 Airlift wing shuttled more than 1,200 patients from New Orleans to San Antonio. Two C-130s of the 139th Airlift Wing flew 31 children and their families from the New Orleans Children's Hospital to Mercy Children's Hospital in Kansas City. As early as August 30, a C-17 and a C-130 landed at Keesler to evacuate hospital patients and pregnant women to Lackland Air Force Base's Wilford Hall Medical Center in Texas.^x

Not only patients, but those made homeless by Hurricane Katrina, needed airlift from the disaster area. The Air Force airlifted 26,943 displaced persons from New Orleans to temporary or new homes in more than 35 states across the country. In 55 hours, 89 aircraft moved almost 10,000 refugees from New Orleans to Kelly Field, San Antonio, Texas, where Lackland Air Force Base personnel had set up temporary shelters. C-17s that had delivered emergency personnel and equipment to New Orleans, instead of returning to their home bases empty, carried refugees from New Orleans to Dobbins Air Force Base, Georgia, as well as San Antonio, Texas. Other C-17s of the 97th Air Mobility Wing, after having delivered generators to Keesler, airlifted 437 USAF technical students from Biloxi, Mississippi, to Sheppard Air Force Base, Texas. A total of 1,100 USAF technical students were moved from Keesler to other Air Education and Training Command facilities.^{xi}

Besides airlifting displaced persons and patients from the disaster area to other parts of the country for housing and medical treatment, the Air Force also transported large numbers of emergency personnel to the New Orleans and surrounding areas, including medical and communications personnel, engineers, and armed troops. USAF aircraft moved 30,412 Air National Guard passengers and 5,414 Air Force Reservists, and a total of 43,713 Joint Task Force support personnel.^{xii}

Many of the airlifted emergency personnel came to restore infrastructure. As early as August 30, two C-5s from the 60th Air Mobility Wing at Travis Air Force Base in California airlifted tanker airlift control elements and search and rescue teams to the disaster area. A C-17 from the 305 Air Mobility Wing from McGuire AFB, NJ airlifted contingency support groups to New Orleans International Airport. Between August 31 and September 3, 2005, other C-17s airlifted emergency response personnel and equipment from New Jersey and Michigan to New Orleans. C-5 transported 615 Contingency Response Wing from Travis AFB, CA, to Lafayette, LA as advance team to receive aircraft and cargo. On August 31, the 621 Contingency Response Wing's 818 Contingency Response Group deployed from McGuire AFB, NJ to New Orleans International Airport with combat controllers and medical teams to establish base operations there. An AFSOC MC-130 took a team of combat controllers and a medical team to New Orleans International Airport on the same day. The 822d Contingency

Response Group also deployed there. Meanwhile, the 615 Contingency Response Wing's 571st Contingency Response Group deployed from Travis AFB, CA, to Keesler for bare base operations in the Biloxi area of Mississippi. A C-5 moved equipment for fire and rescue personnel to New Orleans International Airport.^{xiii}

The 49 Materiel Maintenance Group, the only USAF Base Expeditionary Airfield Resources (BEAR) group, deployed personnel and equipment to New Orleans and Biloxi. On 4 Sep, four C-5s each carried a BEAR Base set and more than 550 personnel from Holloman AFB, New Mexico to New Orleans International Airport. On 5 Sep, the 4th Air Expeditionary Group under Col Leonard Coleman, bedded down at a tent city there.^{xiv}

On September 2, 2005, a 60-member contingency aeromedical staging facility team from Lackland AFB deployed to New Orleans, where it set up a 24-hour tent facility to care for patients. 25-bed facility ready next day, manned by 182 medical personnel. The 932d Airlift Wing moved medical teams by C-9 to the medical staging area in New Orleans, where 80 doctors, nurses, and medical technicians of the 375th Medical Group served admirably. A mobile aeromedical staging facility from Lackland Air Force Base in Texas operated in an airport concourse at New Orleans to treat patients awaiting evacuation.^{xv}

Absence of adequate communications in the wake of Hurricane Katrina required the importation of equipment and expert personnel to operate it. The 139 Airlift Wing flew military communications personnel from Colorado to Gulfport, Mississippi, while the 5th Combat Communications Group deployed resources from Robins AFB, GA, to nearby Keesler AFB. At request of US Senator "Kit" Bond, 139 Airlift Wing (Missouri ANG) flew members of National Guard Communications Element from Buckley ANG Station in Colorado to Gulfport.^{xvi}

The first week in September exposed a growing breakdown of law and order in New Orleans. Thousands of refugees, lacking adequate food, drink, plumbing, air conditioning, and space, crowded at the Superdome and the convention center, where violence threatened to erupt. Desperate people broke into grocery and drug stores in search of necessities, while others looted clothing and electronics stores for items to sell or barter. During the first nine days of September, hosts of USAF C-130s and Air National Guard KC-135s airlifted U.S. Army and Army National Guard troops from various parts of the country to New Orleans during the first nine days of September. Between Sep 3 and 8, thirty-three C-17 missions airlifted troops of the 82d Airborne Division from Fort Bragg, NC, to New Orleans. C-5s, the largest airplanes in the Air Force, also airlifted division troops to the city.^{xvii}

Not to be overlooked was the airlift of the highest federal officials to the beleaguered disaster area. The 89th Airlift Wing (AMC) flew Air Force One, a VC-25 carrying President George W. Bush and his staff, from Andrews Air Force Base near Washington, D.C. to New Orleans, LA, and Keesler AFB, MS more than once. The President and his party met with state and local officials, storm and flood victims, and ruined areas.^{xviii}

The Air Force airlifted not only emergency personnel into the disaster area, but also some 11,450 tons of equipment, supplies, and vehicles. For example, between September 8 and 11, four C-17s and two C-5s carried large water pumps from Ramstein Air Base in Germany to New Orleans to expel flood waters from the city. Other C-5s

imported vehicles and relief cargo from New York and New Jersey to New Orleans and Gulfport between September 5 and 8. On August 31, C-17s from the 97th Air Mobility Wing of Altus Air Force Base, Oklahoma, transported 200-watt generators to Keesler. On September 7, one week later, a C-17 delivered more FEMA generators to New Orleans. C-17s delivered engineering equipment and supplies from other USAF bases to Keesler. Food was one of the most important of airlifted emergency supplies. Between 1 and 9 September, the 155th and 185th Air Refueling Wings of the Air National Guard delivered 66,000 Meals, Ready to Eat, or MREs, from Nebraska to New Orleans, using KC-135 tankers as transports. On September 4, C-5s transported huge quantities of MREs from Norfolk, Virginia, to Gulfport. To Keesler Air Force Base in coastal Mississippi went 182,640 meals ready-to-eat, 243,507 gallons of water, and 92 tons of supplies. On Sept 6, a C-5 airlifted 27,300 British MREs from RAF Mildenhall, UK, to Little Rock AFB, Arkansas, the base designated for delivery of foreign relief supplies.^{xix}

Insects, breeding profusely in the floodwaters, posed a disease threat to New Orleans and its vicinity. Between Sept 12 and 20, two C-130s of the 910 Airlift Wing from Ohio sprayed insecticide over disaster area, staging out of Duke Field, Florida. On 44 aerial spray sorties, they treated more than 2.8 million acres, using 13,775 gallons of insecticide. They served under the 153d Air Expeditionary Group.^{xx}

Specialized Air Force aircraft performed other crucial missions. E-3 AWACS aircraft and crews from 552d Air Control Wing (960 Air Control Squadron) provided air traffic control for more than 1,000 helicopters between September 3 and 19, flying eleven sorties. The 99th Reconnaissance Squadron from Beale Air Force Base in California flew U-2s over the disaster area for aerial photography and imagery, while the 45th Reconnaissance Squadron from Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska flew OC-135s for the same purpose. The Air Force flew 361 intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance sorties during the Hurricane Katrina operation. Just in case they were needed to fight fires from the air, two 145th Airlift Wing C-130s equipped with the Modular Airborne Fire Fighting System deployed from North Carolina to Pensacola for possible use against fires that had broken out in New Orleans.^{xxi}

Statistics prove the quantitative significance of the Air Force role in Hurricane Katrina relief operations. USAF helicopters flew 648 sorties, 599 of these on search and rescue missions that rescued 4322 people. Air Force fixed-wing aircraft flew 4,095 sorties, 3,398 of these on air mobility missions. USAF aircraft evacuated 26,943 displaced persons from New Orleans and surrounding areas to airports and bases outside of the disaster area. The Air Force air-evacuated more than 2,600 medical patients to medical facilities across the country. USAF medical teams at the New Orleans International Airport treated 16,714 patients, including more than 5,500 in two days. The Air Force airlifted 11,450 tons of relief cargo from various parts of the country to the disaster zone. Transports carried thousands of emergency personnel, including engineers, electricians, doctors, nurses, cooks, and troops from all over the country to New Orleans and southern Mississippi. Among the Air Force aircraft involved were 49 C-130s, 31 KC-135s, 25 HH-60s, 16 C-5s, 15 C-17s, 31 KC-135s, 9 UH-1s, and 5 MH-53s, as well as HC-130s, MC-130s, WC-130s, U-2s, and OC-135s.^{xxii}

The immense contribution of the Air Force in Hurricane Katrina disaster relief was only a fraction of the total Defense Department effort, which involved elements of the National Guard, the Army, Navy, and the Marine Corps. Although not technically

part of the Defense Department, the Coast Guard also played a major role. The Pentagon flew 12,786 helicopter sorties, rescued 15,000 citizens, and transported 80,000 people in one of the largest mass evacuations in history. From nine regional military bases, the Defense Department distributed huge quantities of equipment and supplies, including more than 30 million meals. The Pentagon's response to Hurricane Katrina was the largest deployment of military forces for a civil-support mission in U.S. history.^{xxiii}

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14 November 2006 (see end of list for notes on Katrina)

2005, September 4-, Idaho forest fires

two C-130s, 29 reservists. 302 Airlift Wing. Modular airborne fire fighting systems. In first 3 days, 14 sorties, and 36,500 gallons of fire retardant dropped

2005, September, Relief for victims of Hurricane Rita, Louisiana and Texas

No details yet.

2005, October. Hurricane Stan. Central America

No details yet.

2005, October. Darfur Relief. Sudan.

No details yet.

2005, October-December. Pakistan Earthquake. 9 Oct-2 Dec 2005

On October 8, 2005, a 7.6-magnitude earthquake struck northern Pakistan near its disputed border with India, killing an estimated 73,000 people and leaving hundreds of thousands homeless. By December 2, USAF aircraft had delivered nearly 10 million pounds of relief supplies, including food, water, tents, sleeping bags, cots, blankets, heaters, clothing, medicine, and medical equipment. C-17, C-130, KC-10, and contract aircraft carried most of the cargo from Afghanistan, where USAF food airdrops had been ongoing as part of Operation Enduring Freedom, but C-5 and C-17 transports also carried some dozen U.S. Army CH-47 helicopters from the United States to facilitate search and rescue operations in the disaster area.

2005, October. Hurricane Wilma. Florida.

2006, February. Leyte Mudslides.

On February 17, 2006, a rain-induced landslide buried the mountain town of Guinsaugon on Leyte Island in the Philippines under up to 30 feet of mud, leaving more than 1,000 people dead or missing. 36th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron C-130s from Yokota Air Base in Japan carried emergency personnel and tons of relief equipment and supplies from Clark Air Base on Luzon to Tacloban Airfield on Leyte. A few days later, a C-17 from the 15th Airlift Wing delivered heavy

equipment, meals, water, cots, tents, and personnel from Hickam Air Force Base in Hawaii. 36 Contingency Response Group and its 736th Security Forces Squadron and 36th Mission Readiness Squadron from Andersen AFB, Guam, also took part.

Air Force Press Release no. 100206 dated February 19, 2006.

2006, March. Kauai Flood Relief. Hawaii.

2006, March. Pakistan Earthquake Relief.

2006, June. Indonesia Earthquake Relief.

2006, August. Lebanon Evacuation.

2006, November. Ethiopia Flood Relief.

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^{vi} Louis A. Arana-Barradas, "Helicopter Mission Changes as Rescue Tempo Slows," *Air Force Print News*, 7 Sep 2005, storyID=123011674; Director of Mobility Forces After Action Report, Joint Task Forces Katrina and Rita, 18 Oct 2005, Appendix C; "Rescue Wing Featured on Outdoor Network," *Air Force Link*, 16 Feb 2006, story ID=123016394; "347 Rescue Wing Supports Hurricane Relief Efforts," 347 Rescue Wing Public Affairs News Release no. 090105 issued 1 Sep 2005; 347th Expeditionary Rescue Group, "Joint Task Force-Katrina: Lessons Learned," 22 Sep 2005, issued by 347 RQW/CC; JTF Katrina ANG Chronology, 25 Aug-7 Sep 2005..

^{vii} Director of Mobility Forces After Action Report, Joint Task Forces Katrina and Rita, 18 Oct 2005, Appendix C.

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