

## ALCOAST MESSAGE (9/14/17)

Many units and people across the Coast Guard are engaged in supporting the ongoing efforts in the Seventh and Eighth Districts in response to Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. The workforce has performed outstanding in all facets of response, recovery, and support. We recognize that some of our brave men and women who perform these duties in demanding conditions are in fact disaster victims – this underscores the character and tenacity of our workforce. Recovery will take much time and effort, especially for those who experienced catastrophic property loss. We have developed various tools for members and families who experienced loss or are having difficulty in coping with the hurricane experience. This ALCOAST is intended to inform you of the lines of effort to support the Coast Guard family, offer important policy information which is underpinned by statute, and reaffirms guidance for mobilized Reservists.

**Online and up-to-date resource information for Harvey and Irma may be accessed at:** <http://www.news.uscg.mil/News-by-Region/Headquarters/HurricaneCGResources/>.

### ❖ HOUSING/RELOCATION SUPPORT:

This is likely the most critical issue our members and families face. We are working diligently to provide both short-term and long-term alternatives that will provide the maximum flexibility to re-establish a proper residence. Further details for housing options following a disaster can be found in section 3.O. of REF (A).

**A)** Prior to the storm, designated families were evacuated to safe haven locations. They will receive full evacuation allowances (travel and per diem) up to 30 days with 60 percent of these allowances payable for up to 150 additional days.

**B)** Evacuated dependents returning to the evacuated location from a safe haven location are eligible to receive travel allowances back to their original residence.

**C)** Affected families electing to establish a designated place (permanent residence in a different city or state) will be eligible for full travel and transportation allowances, including shipment of Household Goods to the new permanent residence.

**D)** Dependents whose non-government homes were impacted and choose to remain at the Permanent Duty Station (PDS) may possibly obtain government leased housing pending availability. Impacted members whose dependents relocate to a designated place may be able to reside in Unaccompanied Personnel Housing (UPH) or contracted housing pending availability.

**E)** Travel from a safe haven location in order to assess property damage and collect valuables or personal effects is not a reimbursable travel expense authorized in travel regulations. Assessment efforts should be coordinated locally to minimize non-reimbursable expenses.

**F)** Critical Housing Areas (CHA): There is a possibility for the Department of Defense to designate affected military housing areas as CHAs, which would take effect in AY18. This will afford members who receive PCS orders into hurricane affected areas three options: 1) move dependents into the affected areas; 2) allow dependents to remain at the previous PDS, or; 3) move dependents to a location designated by the member. The member will receive station allowances (BAH and CONUS COLA, if applicable) for the location of their dependents. Note: Designating CHAs does not authorize these options for members currently assigned to the affected region(s).

**G)** CG PSC and CG-133 developed an Evacuation Entitlements Guide for Military Personnel with a flow chart to help understand these options. The guide is available at: <http://www.news.uscg.mil/News-by-Region/Headquarters/HurricaneCGResources/>.

### ❖ HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WORKLIFE

**A) TRICARE:** Coast Guard beneficiaries are encouraged to visit the TRICARE website, <https://www.tricare.mil/> or call TRICARE South at [800-444-5445](tel:800-444-5445), or the TRICARE Overseas Program at [877-451-8659](tel:877-451-8659), to obtain up to date information on TRICARE special procedures established for beneficiaries in hurricane affected areas.

**B. Safety and Environmental Health:** REF (B) provides information on water quality, sanitation and hygiene, food safety, and general safety precautions. Particular attention should be paid to reduce the opportunity for mosquito habitats. Mosquito bites can transmit disease to humans including Zika and other

diseases. Integrated Pest Management TTP 4-11.13A and other TTPs are available at the following link: <https://cg.portal.uscg.mil/units/hswlsc/SafeEvHealth/SitePages/TTPs.aspx>.

For other Safety and Environmental Health concerns, contact the HSWL SC (se-fo) at [\(757\)628-4409/10](tel:7576284409) or [757-846-5348](tel:7578465348) HSWL (CDO) and on the USCG Portal at: [https://cg.portal.uscg.mil/units/hswlsc/SafeEvHealth/Field\\_Ops\\_Branch/SitePages/Home.aspx](https://cg.portal.uscg.mil/units/hswlsc/SafeEvHealth/Field_Ops_Branch/SitePages/Home.aspx).

#### **IMPORTANT**

**C. Exposure Tracking:** REF (C) provides guidance on electronic health screening tool for Coast Guard personnel who are currently serving, currently assigned, or served in the affected areas this year.

**D. Work Life:** During difficult times, members typically benefit from talking through work or personal problems. CGSUPRT experts, who are experienced professionals, can empathetically listen in confidence while helping members develop solutions. Contact CGSUPRT at [1-855-247-8778](tel:18552478778) or go to [CGSUPRT.com](https://CGSUPRT.com) for assistance. This resource may be accessed 24 hours a day/7 days per week/365 days per year. Additionally, Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) teams have been deployed throughout the region and are assisting operational and support personnel in the performance of their extremely arduous duties. **IMPORTANT NOTE:** The CGSUPRT contractor will change on 01OCT2017. Once the new contractor is identified, an ALCOAST will be promulgated and other messaging strategies leveraged. This change should be relatively transparent to the field.

### ❖ **CHAPLAIN SUPPORT**

Additional Chaplains have been deployed to affected areas to provide ongoing support to Coast Guard personnel and their families. Chaplains offer confidential and compassionate pastoral care and counseling. To reach the nearest Chaplain contact 1-855-USCG-CHC (872-4242) or [www.uscg.mil/chaplains](http://www.uscg.mil/chaplains).

### ❖ **RESERVE**

**A)** Reserve members being activated for T14 contingency operation for 31 days or more are eligible for health care benefits which may extend to family members. Benefits may be triggered while on pre-activation orders or during active duty orders. Members should be counseled and confirm Transitional Assistance Management Program (TAMP) eligibility is documented in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). A TAMP overview is provided at <https://tricare.mil/tamp>; to confirm DEERS enrollment via MilConnect, visit <https://www.dmdc.osd.mil/milconnect/>. Members previously enrolled in TRICARE Reserve Select (TRS) may lose coverage due to the change in sponsors status when activated. Servicing Personnel Offices (SPOs) and Personnel and Administrative (P&A) Offices are an important resource to guide members through nuanced mobilization and demobilization TRICARE issues.

**B)** A reserve member who incurs or aggravates an illness, injury, or disease identified by a Coast Guard Medical Officer before release from active duty orders of 31 days or greater will be retained on active duty in order to receive appropriate health care IAW REF (D) Chapter 6.2.c.

**C)** A line of duty determination will be conducted when any reserve member in a qualifying duty status becomes injured, ill or seeks medical treatment IAW REF (E), Chapter 7.B.

**D)** Reservists activated under Title 14 USC 712 in support of Hurricane Harvey and/or Irma Response Operations shall be released from active duty by their SPO upon notification from the appropriate Incident Commander or designated staff. Members shall complete a Career Intention Worksheet, Form CG-2045 and forward to the appropriate SPO and P&A Office prior to demobilizing (if infrastructure shortfalls within affected areas do not allow for computer access, members will complete a CG-2045 upon return to their assigned unit). This procedure ensures members will receive correct entitlements and are counseled when released from active duty.

**E)** Reserve members ordered to active duty for a contingency operation (Hurricane Harvey and Irma) will be issued a DD Form 214 regardless of the number of days served on active duty IAW REF (F) Enclosure (3), 2.d.(1). SPO must ensure a remark regarding member being on Title 10/14 be added in block 18, per Enclosure (1), Paragraph 2.ee.(4)(g), of REF (G). For example, "Member performed active duty under Title 14 in support of Hurricane Harvey/ Irma Response Operations," as appropriate. Process guide can be found at: <https://cg.portal.uscg.mil/units/psc/Lists/PSC%20Instructions/AllItems.aspx>.

**F)** A reservist called/ordered to active duty in support of a designated contingency operation or under Title 14 U.S.C. 712 is authorized BAH/OHA based on the rate for their primary residence beginning on the first

active duty day IAW REF (H) Section 3.G.9.c. COLA, if authorized for the members primary residence location, is also authorized beginning on the first active duty day.

#### ❖ **LEAVE CARRYOVER**

IAW REF (K), all active and reserve military personnel are authorized 75 leave days carryover limit on 01OCT17.

#### ❖ **UNIFORM REPLACEMENT**

IAW REFs (L) and (M), replacement uniforms at no cost are authorized to those members and responders in the affected areas whose uniforms were lost or rendered unserviceable by either storm.

#### ❖ **GOVERNMENT TRAVEL CHARGE CARD (GTCC)**

**A)** Travel charge card coordinators have increased the limits for members assigned to units subject to evacuation orders within the affected regions.

**B)** Members deploying to affected regions should contact their travel charge card coordinators to increase their limits.

**C)** Payments will be required to be made on the regular schedule prescribed by JPMC.

**D)** Commercial Lodging reservations should be made via the Travel Management Center (ADTRAV) per FTR/JTR. ADTRAV has surged their staffing to meet higher demand. There is no hurricane exemption or amnesty provision under duress of an evacuation.

#### ❖ **IMPACT TO AY18 PCS ASSIGNMENTS**

**A)** PCS Active Duty Assignments: for Active Duty officers and enlisted members in the affected areas due for reassignment in AY18 and any other members in the affected areas who now have other critical assignment issues resulting from hurricanes Harvey and Irma, PSC will engage with operational commanders to identify and work through personnel issues for their outgoing and incoming members. OPM and EPM will work closely with those members affected to minimize short/long-term impacts of possible assignment decisions. Every opportunity to reduce some of the uncertainty surrounding assignments will be considered, with the emphasis on reducing the possibility of moving families twice within a year. In the coming weeks, OPM/EPM will engage with unit commanders to assess assignment concerns and options for impacted personnel.

**B)** PCS Reserve Assignments: AY17 Reserve PCS orders for Reserve officers and enlisted have a 01OCT2017 report date. If a reservist is in receipt of AY17 Reserve PCS orders to a hurricane impacted unit, reservists need to coordinate firm reporting dates between losing & receiving commands; DIRLAUTH; report date can be adjusted +/- 90 days without RPM-2 approval. Rotation dates remain the same.

#### ❖ **CIVILIAN EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE**

**A)** The "Emergency Guide for Civilians" provides general information for supervisors and civilians affected by emergency situations. The topics addressed include: evacuation orders, pay, travel, travel claim, leave, work schedules/telework, reporting in, points of contact, and guidance on returning employees to work. The guide is available at the following Office of Civilian Human Resources portal link. Search for the emergency guide by clicking on the letter "E" in the A-Z library of human resources topics at: <http://www.dcms.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Human-Resources-CG-1/Civilian-Human-Resources-Diversity-and-Leadership-Directorate-CG-12/Civilian-HR/HR-Library/>

**B)** District 8 civilian employees needing assistance can contact Cristina DeMichiel, at [504-671-2302](tel:504-671-2302). District 7 civilian employees needing assistance can contact Kathleen LaPlant at [305-968-4937](tel:305-968-4937) (work cell) and/or when facilities reopen Dell Cooper [305-415-7140](tel:305-415-7140).

#### ❖ **COAST GUARD EXCHANGE SYSTEM (CGX)**

The Community Services Command (CSC) utilized the Deployable Support Exchange (DSE) for hurricanes Harvey and Irma response and recovery efforts. The DSE acts as a mobile exchange to provide a selection of necessities, personal products, refreshments, food, disaster relief supplies and Coast Guard uniforms. Additionally, CSC has been a direct supporter of the recovery and response efforts for both storms by utilizing the extensive retail and logistics of the CGX to rapidly fulfill critically needed supplies to the most affected areas, including water, generators, blankets, food, and other items.

#### ❖ **COAST GUARD RECRUITING COMMAND (CGRC) AND RECRUITS**

Recruiting Offices should immediately notify CGRC Accessions if any recruit is unable to ship to TRACEN Cape May due to Hurricanes Harvey or Irma for Recruit Basic Training or DEPOT, as scheduled. Recruiters should maintain communication with recruits and be able to verify arrival at TRACEN or status at home of record.

#### ❖ **OTHER SUPPORT EFFORTS**

A) PPC has additional staffing in place to process evacuation claims.

B) Personnel Support Teams, including Legal Services Teams, are at safe havens and will rotate to Sectors to help our members and dependents with travel orders, entitlements, claims, Coast Guard Mutual Assistance, and other personnel related issues.

#### ❖ **COAST GUARD MUTUAL ASSISTANCE (CGMA)**

The CGMA Board of Control has approved changes to its Disaster Response policy that includes higher amount levels for approved disaster grants and for conversions of disaster loans into grants. CGMA representatives are now accepting requests for disaster grants and for conversion of previously provided disaster loans into grants. Contact your CGMA representative for application instructions and more information. Additional information can also be found on the CGMA website, [www.cgmahq.org](http://www.cgmahq.org).

While more efforts than described in this ALCOAST are in progress, there are still many issues to be addressed and others that will arise as we gain a better understanding of the aftermath of both hurricanes. We welcome your input and perspective. We will continue to do everything possible to support our people and their families as they continue to carry out their important duties to the nation.

RDML Bill G. Kelly, Assistant Commandant for Human Resources  
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