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Subject: Long Term Recovery Situation Report (SITREP #10)

Attachments: SCDMvisit.pdf

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Governor - this week's SITREP for your review and comments:

1. Disaster Recovery Centers –the remaining four DRCs closed this week (Georgetown, Richland, Williamsburg and Sumter).
2. On a very positive note, we met today with the Mennonite Disaster Services Project Director from Sumter (they also have a major project underway in Andrews) and discussed their operation. They continue to rebuild and partner with United Ministries of Sumter. They conducted an extensive meeting with the Sumter County and City building officials to determine the exact building requirements that would be enforced. They appear to have worked through both the licensing and permitting issues and will continue to work in South Carolina as long as meaningful work and resources are provided. We presented him a Coin for Excellence and will work with all the VOADs to recognize exceptional performance.
3. While the EMD case management contract continues to evolve, the VOADs require immediate assistance in both determining and vetting of citizens in need. In the interim, each VOAD is tackling the issue using different methods, but the lack of a robust case management capability now remains problematic. Additionally, the FEMA VALs (Voluntary Agency Liaison) are now reduced to five as of this weekend, further adding strain on the volunteer organizations.
4. We met this week with each of the Federal Recovery Support Functions (RSFs). We anticipate them delivering their Mission Support Assessments (MSA) to us

next week. These Assessments determine the shortfalls and gaps concerning Long Term Recovery as well as the leveraging of existing Federal support programs which can be used to support Long Term Recovery. To date, the Infrastructure MSA appears to be the most substantial in terms of both its scope and depth of data collected and is most promising in its efforts to find additional Public Assistance projects and money for the state. Unfortunately, the Housing MSA has tremendous work left ahead of it to developing an acceptable scope of fidelity of how they will support the state's housing recovery efforts. Once we have these and approve, we will share with all appropriate state agencies.

5. We conducted a vulnerability (SoVI) brief to Dr. Joey Von Nessen (USC Research Economist) which went very well. He is excited about exploring the data Dr. Chris Emrich and our team has in order to make a more comprehensive estimate on the economic impact of the flood. This will be very important to understanding the unmet economic needs when developing the CDBG-DR action plan. Dr. Von Nessen and the Economic RSF had an extensive dialogue on the challenges in assessing the complete ecosystem of impact (i.e., agri-business impact of not only the farm, but the farm hands housing, lack of tax revenues, impact on the agri front and back end businesses, etc). Next step is to bringing Dr. Von Nessen and Dr. Emrich together to discuss the possibilities with data.
6. The feedback on the FEMA Train the Trainer "Recovery from Disaster" course that FEMA hosted this week was positive, but not as comprehensive as we were hoping. 14 members of our Team went through this training, along with business, faith-based, and county government leaders also in attendance. Everyone better understood the role of the long-term community recovery committees, BUT there will still be a lot of experiential learning required. We will bring our "experts" together weekly to discuss lessons learned and best practices.
7. Great session this week with Austin and David. We provided them a pre-brief of what we intend to show you in when your schedule permits. Key points will include our best guess for the CDBG and recovery timelines, recommended State Disaster Recovery Framework, the draft State Disaster Strategy, and a number of issues / concerns we are dealing with.
8. We had to re-request updated data from FEMA specifically focused on Individual Assistance. Some of the data we received invalidated previous data, so we are being

exceptionally meticulous in scrutinizing this information.

9. We met with the Georgetown County administrator, Sel Hemmingway, and his team this week. They have a great perspective on their situation and are fully engaged in leading the recovery efforts in that county. They were exceptionally open with me and our team and very receptive to establishing long-term community recovery committees as well. One of their requests for the next disaster was to demand that the same FEMA liaison stays with them for the duration of the Stafford Act eligibility period rather than having to bring on and train a new one every several weeks. They have provided several issues we should consider for future legislation – we will provide you some of the better ideas when we get together.

10. David Meyers, President Obama's appointee as director to Department of Homeland Security's Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships, is conducting several listening sessions in the state. In the first hearing here in Columbia, Reverend Bush with the National Baptist Convention indicated there was a feeling that FEMA's professionalism was questionable at best and may have even bordered on racially-biased conduct. We'll provide a more cogent response when all of the hearings are complete. Reverend Bush has offered to meet with us next Thursday or Friday. It appears that he is very interested in the SoVI based apolitical approach we are taking to address the needs of the most vulnerable.

11. We had a great session with Louise Welsch of the Red Cross today. They have come up with about \$1.3M to assist us in recovery. We jointly worked projects that would support recovery. Key issues below:

All flood related overhead and administrative costs will be borne by the Red Cross Operating expenses, NOT this designated flood money.

- Mold remediation grants to non-profits serving the vulnerable populations
- Mini-grants in support of gaps identified by Recovery VOADs in vulnerable areas.
- Mold and mental health education classes in vulnerable areas (object is to ensure communities are aware of the dangers of mold inhalation and how to identify warning signs for both upper respiratory disease and signs of PTSD that can lead to suicide)
- Case Management gaps for VOADs until Federal Grants provide resourcing
- Negotiated support to SC Recovery "unmet needs" – projects identified by this office
- Flood related individual grants to support people with functional and accessibility needs (have already provide wheel chairs to support those destroyed in the storm and had no immediate support coming for Federal Agencies).
- On-call rural medical activities (combined effort with Blue Cross – Blue Shield

-- It should be noted that they can now provide a better accounting of all money spend

during the Response Phase.

11. Outstanding issues – we continue to track items that may require legislative support for future disasters:

- a. REMOTE AREA MEDICAL™ (RAM™) - Water Mission.ORG – NO CHANGE
- b. We continue to struggle with contractor licensing issues. Under all circumstances and conditions, we must have laws on the books for the next disaster which encourage, simplify, and facilitate volunteer agencies which come to assist South Carolina. I will lead a meeting between Richele, the Baptist and others to find some sort of amicable solution for the short term, but we must find solutions that will stand the test of time from response through recovery.

Respectfully,  
Kevin

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