

News Release

HQ Texas State Guard
Camp Mabry
Austin, Texas

September 27, 2005

“EQUAL TO THE TASK” is the motto of the Texas State Guard. For the past 30 days the soldiers and airmen who are the volunteers of the Texas State Guard have lived up to that motto. The vast majority of them served as shelter managers in Dallas, Tyler, Marshall, Longview, Beaumont, Orange, Baytown, Houston, San Antonio and many other small towns in between those cities to provide services to our Displaced Neighbors from Louisiana who had to leave their homes because of Hurricane Katrina. The Texas Medical Rangers also provided their medical skills to assess the medical condition and treat our Displaced Neighbors.

As the Hurricane Katrina operation was winding down and the residents from Louisiana were finding new homes, the state came under imminent danger from Hurricane Rita. Although many of the Texas State Guard soldiers and airmen had left state active duty, they were called back to open shelters and provide their medical skills for their fellow Texans who were leaving their homes to get out of the path of Hurricane Rita. Today they are serving in San Antonio, Huntsville, Bryan, College Station, Lufkin, Nacogdoches, and many other small towns in East Texas.

Texas State Guard chaplains have been called to serve in Louisiana and are now serving with the Texas Army National Guard Task Forces in East Texas. Texas State Guard communications experts are serving with Texas and Pennsylvania Army National Guard units helping to provide communications to communities without telephone, or broadband computer service.

From the first call up in late August until today the Texas State Guard has had over 950 trained soldiers and airmen answering the call to duty. And over 400 soldiers and airmen continue to serve on state active duty manning shelter providing medical services, manning communication systems and offering chaplain services.

It has been said of the voluntary militia of Texas, “The troops of other states have their reputation to gain, the sons of the Alamo have theirs to maintain.” In these most recent trying times, the soldiers and airmen of the Texas State Guard have maintained their reputation of being “EQUAL TO THE TASK.”

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