

Katrina's Aftermath

Tuesday, September 06, 2005

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Blanco (Rep.) seemed at odds with Democrat New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin Wednesday, hours after the mayor ordered the mandatory evacuation of the crippled Crescent City by force if necessary.



Kathleen Blanco, former high school teacher and the first female Governor of Louisiana, declared war on looters as 300 National Guard troops landed in New Orleans fresh from duty in Iraq. *"These troops know how to shoot and kill, and they are more than willing to do so, and I expect they will!"*

Looting, carjacking and other violence spread in the Gulf Coast region, with even rescuers being attacked. The military expects to increase National Guard deployment to 30,000 from around the country to help with security, rescue and relief.

The official death toll in Mississippi is 126 and rising. The stepped-up evacuation came as workers struggled find and count the corpses decaying in the 90-degree heat. Even when cadaver dogs pick up a scent, workers frequently cannot get at the bodies without heavy equipment. The mayor has estimated New Orleans' death toll could reach 10,000.

Half a day after the military began evacuating the Superdome, the arena held 10,000 more people than it did at dawn. The maximum capacity of the Superdome (see picture above) is approximately 72,003. Evacuees poured into the Superdome and swelled the crowd to about 30,000.

The state of Texas agreed to triple to 75,000 the number of evacuees being taken in from Louisiana. Houston's Astrodome stopped taking refugees Thursday night after accepting 11,000 and sent buses to other shelters in the area; others were relocating to San Antonio or Dallas.

The pumping-out of the city began after the Army Corps of Engineers used hundreds of sandbags and rocks over the Labor Day weekend to close a 200-foot gap in the 17th Street Canal levee that burst in the aftermath of the storm and swamped 80 percent of this below sea-level city.

President Bush plans to tour the region Friday. He warned against looting and price gouging and asked his father, former President Bush, and former President Clinton to lead a fund-raising campaign for victims. Congress rushed to provide a \$10.5 billion down payment in relief aid.

1. Who is Kathleen Blanco? What are her personal views towards military presence in New Orleans? Is she in agreement with the Mayor? Are they affiliated with the same political party?
2. Compare and contrast the current death toll in Mississippi to predictions for New Orleans.
3. After the military began the evacuation, what percentage of the Superdome was then occupied?
4. Prior to the agreement, to where they would triple the number of evacuees being taken in from Louisiana, about how many did the state of Texas house?
5. In paragraph form, explain some of the functions being performed by the military.
6. In your opinion, why do you feel the state of Louisiana turned to the military for assistance beyond the traditional law enforcement personnel?
7. In paragraph form, explain three legitimate and educational purposes behind The Daughtry Times.
8. Of the six Daughtry Times received thus far: *Car buyers*, *Gas prices*, *Gaza Strip*, *Asthma*, *Hurricane Katrina*, and finally, *Katrina's Aftermath*, what was your favorite edition? Explain.