

STATE OF MISSISSIPPI
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR



HALEY BARBOUR
GOVERNOR

September 4, 2005

Honorable Donald H. Rumsfeld
Secretary of Defense
c/o Mr. Haynes - DoD General Counsel -- via fax [REDACTED]
Pentagon
Washington, DC

Dear Secretary Rumsfeld:

I ask you to approve up to 180 days of military duty, retroactive to August 29, 2005, in Title 32 U.S.C. § 901 status for soldiers and airmen serving on State Active Duty in support of Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. Title 32 status will allow the soldiers and airmen supporting Hurricane Katrina Relief to receive military retirement points, health insurance and disability protection.

Hurricane Katrina struck Mississippi and our neighbors in Louisiana and Alabama on Monday, August 29, 2005. I ordered several thousand Mississippi National Guard soldiers and airmen to State Active Duty to provide security, medical, engineer and communication support to Hurricane Katrina relief efforts. None of those soldiers or airmen is serving in a federal status.

Currently, our soldiers and airmen are engaged in the protection of vital infrastructure to include medical facilities, fuel distribution, I-10, water and power distribution systems -- all of which are vital to the recovery of the entire Gulf coast area.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Haley Barbour

Governor of the State of Mississippi

cc: COL Parker - NGB General Counsel -- via fax [REDACTED]