



Some Hurricane Relief

In 2005, the most active hurricane season on record, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita pounded a large portion of the Gulf Coast. Winds and rain caused widespread flooding, washing out roads and bridges and contributing to the loss of utility services and communications. In their wake, the storms left immeasurable commercial and residential property damage and tens of thousands of people homeless.

First with Hurricane Katrina, and then a month later Hurricane Rita, law enforcement agencies in the devastated areas of the Gulf Coast had all that they could handle coping with looters, helping to rescue stranded persons, and ensuring the public safety.

Their mission, however, was made a little easier through the efforts of the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center (NLECTC)–Southeast, which provided computers and other supplies from the U.S. Department of Defense’s 1033 Program to the storm areas. NLECTC–Southeast is a program of the Office of Justice Programs’ National Institute of Justice.

NLECTC–Southeast’s Ken Dover, program manager for the Center’s Excess Federal Property Program, knew law enforcement agencies in the hard-hit States of Louisiana and Mississippi would need computer equipment in the wake of the storms. Using the 1033 Program, which permits the Secretary of Defense to transfer excess U.S. Department of Defense supplies and equipment to State and local law enforcement agencies without charge, Dover located computers in Missouri and Illinois. He picked up the computers, keyboards, monitors, and mice in Springfield, Illinois, helped load them on a truck, then drove them to Baton Rouge. Before distribution there, he reinstalled operating systems and ensured that the computers were in working order. In all, Dover secured 160 computers for use in Louisiana and 180 in Mississippi.

“For most of the law enforcement agencies in both States, their complete computer systems were gone,” Dover says. “Our assistance was basically a cooperative effort between several States and the 1033 Program to get the agencies up and running again. We put out the word to all 1033 Program State Coordinators to be on

the lookout for computers. They in turn contacted Department of Defense units in their State.”

In addition to the computers from Missouri and Illinois, the Gulf Coast States received other supplies from out of State. “For example, North Carolina Law Enforcement Support Services maintains a contingency stock for disaster relief. The week after Katrina, they sent three tractor-trailer loads of cots, food, and clothing,” Dover says, adding that Georgia also sent cots.

Additional NLECTC–Southeast assistance to law enforcement came from Charles Stephenson, a project manager at the Center. Stephenson was deployed to Houston following Hurricane Rita to help with communications interoperability issues. There, he trained Texas Department of Public Safety staff on the use of interoperability gateway switches that NIJ provided. He worked to restore communications in the Beaumont area and establish communications interoperability among the Texas Department of Public Safety, the U.S. Air Force, and the Beaumont Police Department. From Houston, Stephenson moved on to collaborate with NIJ staff in bringing in supplies and helping solve communication issues in Jasper County, Texas.

“We actually were set up at the airfield in the county, where we helped receive and issue the supplies,” says Stephenson, adding that NIJ offered communications assistance following Katrina, but conditions proved so chaotic in New Orleans that local law enforcement was

In addition to the 1033 Program, State and local law enforcement agencies can obtain excess Federal property at little or no cost through the 1122 Program, which makes U.S. Department of Defense and contractor equipment available for counterdrug activities. For more information about these programs, access the *Federal Property and Equipment Manual* at www.nlectc.org/txtfiles/fedpropasc.html or www.nlectc.org/pdffiles/fedproppdf.pdf.

not sure how to use the help. “Katrina kind of hit the area by surprise. There wasn’t a mechanism in place to use what was being offered. Following Rita, things went more smoothly.”

For more information about the 1033 Program, contact Ken Dover, 888-874-5854 or kdover@nlectc-se.org. For more information about NLECTC-Southeast communications technology initiatives, contact Charles Stephenson, 843-760-3283 or stephenson@nlectc-se.org.

**The National Law Enforcement and
Corrections Technology Center System
Your Technology Partner
www.justnet.org
800-248-2742**



This article was reprinted from the Spring 2006 edition of *TechBeat*, the award-winning quarterly newsmagazine of the National Law Enforcement and Corrections Technology Center system, a program of the National Institute of Justice under Cooperative Agreement #2005-MU-CX-K077, awarded by the U.S. Department of Justice.

Analyses of test results do not represent product approval or endorsement by the National Institute of Justice, U.S. Department of Justice; the National Institute of Standards and Technology, U.S. Department of Commerce; or Aspen Systems Corporation. Points of view or opinions contained within this document are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

The National Institute of Justice is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Bureau of Justice Statistics, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, and Office for Victims of Crime.