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31 May 2019

Dear Coast Guard Family Members:

The Maritime Law Enforcement Academy (MLEA) is preparing for the 2019 hurricane season, which runs from June through November. As part of our unit preparations, we encourage our personnel and their families to prepare for the possibility of severe weather.

Hurricanes interrupted MLEA operations during each of the last three years: Matthew in 2016, Irma in 2017, and notably Florence in 2018 which required the first-ever full evacuation of our staff and students. These experiences prove that hurricane preparedness is not optional for those residing in the greater Charleston area!

As we know from last year, the unpredictable nature of hurricane season includes the possibility of an ordered evacuation. The Commander of the Seventh Coast Guard District in Miami is responsible for issuing an evacuation order for Coast Guard personnel assigned to MLEA. Evacuation expenses of active duty MLEA members, civilian employees, and their dependents, will be subject to reimbursement only if these personnel evacuate to a safe haven designated by the Seventh District Commander. Last year's evacuation order designated the safe haven as any inland location outside of the projected storm path, not to exceed 750 miles from Charleston. In the event of an ordered evacuation during this year's hurricane season, the safe haven designation may change based on the storm's path or intensity.

The MLEA is unique among Charleston-area Coast Guard commands because it is a training unit integrated with the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC). The FLETC will determine whether to suspend training in the event of a hurricane, although the Seventh District Commander retains the authority to order the evacuation of all Charleston-area Coast Guard personnel. In the event that State or local authorities order an evacuation of your area prior to the District Commander (to include the Joint Base Charleston Commander, in the case of personnel and dependents who reside on base only) you must comply, however you can expect a supplemental order from the District Commander authorizing reimbursement for expenses to be forthcoming. To reiterate: Coast Guard personnel must comply with evacuation orders. The sole exception is for personnel directed by the command to serve on the ride-out crew.

The Seventh District evacuation policy, as well as other useful hurricane preparedness information, is available at MLEA's website at this link: <https://www.forcecom.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/FORCECOM-UNITS/MLEA/Hurricane-Information/>

Additionally, the MLEA Ombudsman, Stephanie Krauss, is available to answer any questions concerning hurricane preparedness and evacuation policies. I encourage you to reach out to her at (843) 608-8161 or MLEAOmbudsman@gmail.com if you have any inquiries regarding hurricane preparedness or evacuation procedures. Information from sources outside of MLEA may be inaccurate or inapplicable to MLEA, so please consider Stephanie as your source for

definitive information. If a hurricane threatens the Charleston area, our Ombudsman's primary means of disseminating information will be through e-mail. Accordingly, if you haven't already registered your e-mail address with Stephanie, I encourage you to contact her and do so now.

In event of an ordered evacuation: The MLEA will stand up an Incident Command in advance of a major storm approaching Charleston. The MLEA Incident Command will push out information and periodic updates via the Alert Warning System (AWS), which delivers automated messages through telephone, text, and e-mail. In preparation for Hurricane Season, all MLEA personnel are required to ensure their contact information is current in all databases (*i.e.* Direct Access at <https://hcm.direct-access.us/>; the CGPAAS accountability system at <https://cgpaas.uscg.mil>; the Active Directory at <https://edms.uscg.mil/selfservice>; and the Defense Manpower Data Center at <https://milconnect.dmdc.osd.mil/>).

In the event of lost communications with the MLEA Incident Command, evacuated personnel must contact the District Seven Personnel Support Team (PST) at the telephone number that will be specified in the evacuation order to report accountability for themselves and their dependents. The MLEA Incident Command (or PST) will provide information on funding, assistance, and guidance on when to return to the Charleston area and to duty.

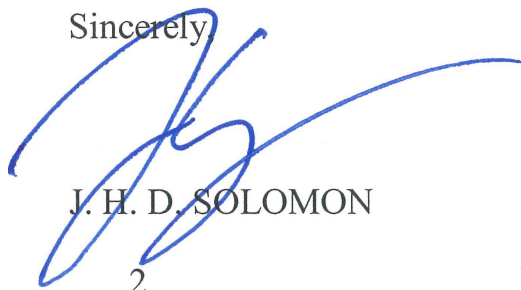
Post-Storm Procedures: All MLEA staff should report accountability for themselves and their dependents within 12 hours of storm passage. Accountability should be made utilizing the CGPAAS system, which sends out an automated query that allows staff to report their status. This automated system, as well as AWS, is only effective if contact information is up to date!

Personnel who are unable to access CGPAAS or receive CGPAAS alerts during a storm should report accountability by contacting the MLEA Incident Command at (843) 259-1656, as well as their supervisor.

All MLEA staff should expect to return to work as soon as safely possible following the passage of a storm. The MLEA Incident Command will begin the recall of personnel utilizing the AWS and will provide specific instructions on return schedules. The MLEA Incident Command will also provide these instructions to the Personnel Support Team and Ombudsman to provide an additional information source for MLEA personnel. This process can be expected to begin within 12 hours of storm passage, depending on damage assessments and the projected resumption of training operations at FLETC. Any personnel that have not been contacted within 18 hours of storm passage should contact their supervisor, the MLEA Incident Command, or the Personnel Support Team, for instructions.

Thank you for your shared commitment to hurricane preparedness. Your safety and well being is of utmost importance to me and to the success of MLEA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'J. H. D. SOLOMON', written over a large, stylized blue scribble.

J. H. D. SOLOMON