

HARRISON COUNTY EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

1801 23rd Avenue • P. O. Box 68 • Gulfport, Mississippi 39502

September 26, 2005

(228) 865-4002 / FAX (228) 865-4087



TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

I want to recommend Scott Lewis and The Eagles' Wings Foundation to other incident commanders facing any disaster like Hurricane Katrina. The Eagles' Wings team was effective at developing and implementing the "Pathfinder" missions which efficiently combined military and local civilians into a working team that was able to locate and address the needs of over 110,000 of Harrison County's most vulnerable residents following Katrina's rampage through our area. Scott Lewis was part of our command staff at the Emergency Operations Center, and his skills were invaluable in helping our operation to organize quickly and perform effective out reach to storm victims.

Our staff requested Scott to return for a second tasking to my command, and Eagles' Wings returned without any hesitation. Scott then established our County's single largest combined Point of Distribution (POD) and Comfort Station at the Harrison County Convention Center. His group also was instrumental in coordinating the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and our County's entire senior staff to establish and fund the County's first Emergency Response Coordinator along with a complete staffing assignment. Scott accomplished all of his second tasking while simultaneously riding out Hurricane Rita with 65 mph winds and as he also worked with a large contingent from the Indiana National Guard and the Department of Homeland Security.

My recommendation to any disaster Incident Commander is to use the skills and know how of Scott Lewis and his group. Their dedication, honesty, and integrity are exemplary, and their leadership in the field of disaster operations filled a gap in our command structure. My best advice is to make the most of their services and their suggestions. They know what they are doing.

In closing, God has lifted us up on "Eagles' Wings," and it has been a blessing to our community.


Colonel Joe Spraggins
Harrison County Emergency Management Director
Harrison County, Mississippi

Connie Rockco
Marlin Ladner

Henry Arledge
John McAdams

Joe Spraggins
Director
-COUNCIL-
Bobby Eleuterius

Larry Benefield
Joe Meadows

George Payne
William Martin