

FOIA MARKER

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Emergency Projects: Virgin Islands

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1

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AGENCY	RENEWALS	NON-RENEWALS	SUPERVISOR	STATE
FOREST SERVICE				
		Jason Hansen	Dave Johnson	WA
		Cheri Ude	Dave Johnson	WA
		Dina Kountoupes	Joan McCloud	VT
		Daniel Noonan	Mindy Martin	OR
NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE				
	Tim Craddock <i>- what they are bearing pd</i>			WV
	Sammy Bousley			IL
	Anna Gomes		Leon Martinez	NM
		Abby Gage <i>not pd</i>		SC
		Mark Van Ramsey		SD
		Ryan Webster	Larry Miles	KS
RURAL ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT				
	Jim Luvanos			CA
	John Glenn			WA
		Charolet Merdith		MS
		Margaret Peters		AR

AmeriCorps Virgin Islands Recovery Accomplishments

- 1. Florence Phillips- Mandal:** the first outdoor job; lots of debris and nowhere to put it; built some stairs
- 2. Clarence Calistro- Hospital Ground:** cleaned debris and garbage from a local FEMA worker's grandmother's house; cut trees with carpenter's saw!
- 3. Ricardo Williams- Tutu:** cleaned-up trash and debris around house and helped construct temporary roof to hold tarp
- 4. Rastafarian Community- Bordeaux Farm:** assisted Mennonite Disaster Service in construction of 9 tent platforms
- 5. Mariann Batiste- Tutu Valley:** the first roof removal; a wonderful and appreciative person; we figured out that a large crew gets more done than a small crew??!
- 6. Emergency response- Dorothea:** Bill, along with a FEMA-CR person, helped a homeless person move their belongings from the road side to a more secure place
- 7. Bernadette Gonsalves- Wintberg:** general debris removal from around the house and a very disgusting refrigerator
- 8. Terry and Italia Brunn- Wintberg:** general debris clean-up for a nice couple- Jimmy ramrods for the Seamsters Union.
- 9. Sean Penn- Coki Point:** lots of debris and Scott gets taken to the cleaners
- 10. Herman Charles- Lower John Dunko:** removal of hanging insulation and damaged ceiling; installation of tarp
- 11. Viola Liburd- Lower John Dunko:** same as Herman Charles, but on a smaller scale
- 12. Vivian Queeman- Mahogany Estate:** the notorious PVC adventure, directed by Jimmy, with Scott playing the gopher; removed pile of rubble

13. Beatrice Crime- Contant: three cement block walls that had fallen were removed making it safe to walk again

14. Patricia Thomas- Contant: removed small amount of garbage and realized our limitations concerning going onto and fixing roofs

15. Mary Jackson- Contant: removed damaged ceiling tiles and taught us that we can't staple into metal or glass?

16. Lutheran School- King Quarter: assisted Lutheran's in removing debris from school

17. Louis Guerrard- Mandal: removed sheet metal from field

18. Rastafarian Community- Bordeaux: Charlet takes stoves and other goodies to the Rastas, with Brad from FEMA-CR

19. Olivia Maduro- Hospital Ground: removed sheet metal and other debris from the gut in front of her house; Tim sliced his forearm, and Richard tried walking on nails

20. Robby La Place- Mandal: the trailer; the mess; the stench; Vontese wishes she had ten hands; Ana smiles on the front page; Dan is promoted to project leader; the lunch; Jimmy tests the strength of his shin; twisted steel; hellacious pile of everything stable and moving; scorpions, tarantulas, and skeletons

21. Edna Callwood- Tutu Valley: another day another roof removed at record rate; a real sheety day

22. Jocelyn Monsanto- Tutu Valley: Tutu Valley, must be another roof; a very twisted roof and a couple of trees; John earns trip to FEMA Medical Unit with sculpted wrist

23. Muriel Brewley- Tutu Highrise: Scott demonstrates the use of a Coleman stove and lantern; did anybody see his eyebrows?

24. James Webster- Bovoni: Mr. and Mrs. Webster were on hand to direct the debris removal and sorting; they wanted to save alot of things; quickly completed.

25. Trinita Hodge- Frydenhoj: removed debris and sorted wood for a local FEMA person whose house was destroyed except for the bathroom

26. Olivia Maduro- Hospital Ground: Dan, John and Ryan rebuilt the railings on this wood bridge; it is a good one, and a definite improvement

27. St. Thomas Livestock Association- Bonne Esperance: lead by ramrod Tim, sheetmetal and other debris is removed from this non-profit's field; discovered we need monkeys in our tool bag to get sheetmetal out of trees

28. Webb Alick- Estate Tutu: Ana and Mark help Lutherans remove debris and clean home

29. Ernesto and Ester Van ter Pool- Old Tutu: another assist to Lutherans for debris removal and clean-up by Ana and Mark

30. Murphy Smith- Queen Quarter: "Scott we need 4 flatheaded screwdrivers!!!!" application of crowbars negates this previous plea; hardheaded AmeriCorps members beatdown and shred an entire roof; Tim gets his arm in way of sheetmetal again.

31. Lillian Lopez- Queen Quarter: removal of fallen branches and a dead sheetmetal fence and a well-deserved short day

32. Marva Ritter- Tutu Valley: more debris and another roof; all done not enough tools!

33. George DeWerd- Hull: a fine old man in a sad situation; a beautiful house that has suffered alot from Marilyn; removed debris, trash and Will done did what he did; we avoided the pool; for \$50 Dan would have been challenged to jump into the slimy soup, but alas! Dan wasn't there.

34. Judith Goodling- Anna's Retreat: a Lutheran assist debris and damaged possession removal by the Ana and Mark Show.

35. Stove Demo- St. John: Cheri lends a hand to a small group of elderly folks on the small island.

36. USDA Food distribution- St. Thomas: help in the warehouse

37. Food Stamp work- St. Croix: Vontese and Yvette wow 'em on St. Croix and help the USDA finish up their operations there

38. Food Stamp work- St. Thomas: everyone got a shot at this as it went from day one to last day; assistance was given to USDA personnel in the certification and distribution process at up to 5 locations

39. Sarah Matthews: Tutu Valley: quick work on a contact made by us removing part of a roof and clearing a path from the front yard to the backyard

40. Joe Potter- Tutu: yet another Mark and Ryan relief effort removing damaged furniture with Lutheran help

41. The Hills- Tutu: its getting boring but Mark and Ryan assist the Lutherans in removal of debris and damaged belongings

42. Leroy Boyce- Litton's Fancy: dancing on the roof by Tim, Jimmy, Ryan and Abby; reinforcing the roof and re-application of our special off-white tarp to stop major leaking; return trip on one of the primo jobs of the tour- building a two-story staircase; cudos to Cherie, Ryan, Tim and Mark

43. Molly Mills- Mafolie: lots of debris from around the house; took two days and 3 dump trucks to clear it out; one of those days with a VERY SMALL CREW!!!

44. Stove Demo- Donoe: Charlet and Dina show some scared folk how to use a Coleman stove and lantern

45. Stove Demo- Oswald Harris Court: more stove and lantern by the gas appliance queens

46. USDA- ESF 11- Special Project: Cherie hangs in the DFO doing a few reports for USDA folk

47. Earl Bedford- Bordeaux: the first of many tent platforms and tent assembly by our crack tent crew of John, Dina and Dan with a one day assist by Sammy and Will; there are very few flat spots on this island!

48. Olive Patrick- Bordeaux: tent crew number 2 offers their first rendition of the tent platform while attempting to prove that the platform can be

flipped like a pancake; well.... you know those pancakes that you flip and they kind of hit the edge?

49. Charles Hughes- Bovoni: a good cleaning of this man's apartment and a ride to get him certified for Food Stamps; he had only been out of his apartment once since Marilyn; great job by Yvette, Cherie and Will

50. Fidelia Francis- Nadir: where have you heard this before: Ana and Mark help Lutherans clean-up debris and trash

51. Konger Gade Parsonage- King Quarter: Mark replants 260 year-old date palm tree "Markie Palmseed"

52. Frederick Lutheran Church- King Quarter: Ana and Mark continue their Lutheran ways and chop down a Royal Palm that is obstructing traffic- proving that what Ana and Mark giveth, A and M take away- the earth remains in balance

53. Bluebeard Hill Church- King Quarter: removal of branches from around a church as A and M near the conclusion of their religious quests

54. Reformation Lutheran Church- Tutu; set-up and construction of platforms to aid church activities as the assist to our Lutheran friends continues to turn toward a focus away from specific hurricane recovery for needy individuals; it takes us a while longer to wake-up

55. Reuben Wheatley- Havensight: a small amount of debris and some branches; referred by letter to FEMA

56. Mary Moorhead- an emergency movement of personal belongings for an evicted person; Mark creases the loaner van

57. Calvin Wheatley- Crown and Hawk: a mostly destroyed house; we cleared the property around the house and filled 2 large dumpsters over parts of three days; Calvin lavished gifts upon our members

58. Margaret Charles- St. John: removed 6 dumptruck loads from home and yard in 3 and 1/2 hours

59. I. Daniels- St. John: removed debris into dumptruck; how did these St. John's people come up with one of them? sure could have used them earlier

60. Lutheran assist: the straws that broke the camels back, or certainly thumped his or her hump; we help clean-up an old place to house volunteers; and then help clean-up another place where some of them stay; Scott and Bill finally see the light that several members have been shining into their bleary eyes;

61. Clement Aubin- Contant: the clean-up crew of Charlet, Ana and Sammy clean walls and other parts of the house, remove some debris and offer moral support; with an assist by Joycelyn of Community Relations

62. Miriam Waters- Savan: the clean-up crew of C, A and S help this elderly blind woman spruce up her house

63. Ethel Hamm- Savan: another Coleman Stove demo

64. Roberto Francis- Bordeaux: the tent with the most spectacular view constructed by the loving hands of Dina, John and Dan- in the wrong place! but all was not lost, Francis will move it.

65. Nathaniel Meyers- Bordeaux: injury and sickness strikes tent crew #1 leaving only 3; this does not stop Dan, John and Dina; they forge on building one platform for every three names they collect of people needing their own tent condo

66. Leslie Payton- Fortuna: Tim, Jimmy and Jason construct a tent platform on a site where Tim had to remove some animal's feces with a decorator plastic cup before the Senator would proceed with the project; tent is for a Public Defender who is trying a major murder case

67. Warren Williams- Bordeaux: a tent platform by Dan, Dina and John (DDJ)

68. Dolly Penn- St. John: heroic work cleaning the very modest digs of this woman; all furniture was removed, simple shelving was built, and garbage was hauled away; with help from FEMA-CR, she was given a new small refrigerator and clean linen.

69. Olive Greaves- St. John: removed debris to curbside on the small island

- 70. Sylvester Hamilton- Bordeaux:** tent platform and truly nice man by Tim, Jason and Jimmy (TJJ)
- 71. Alphonso- Bordeaux:** tent crew #1 (DDJ) steep themselves in tent platform construction techniques
- 72. Clarence Cipio- St. John:** removed two truck loads of debris from around St. Ursulas Church
- 73. Earl Forbes- Bordeaux:** DDJ construct a high flying platform; the rock was a nice touch.
- 74. Byron Evans- Bordeaux:** delivery of tent and platform materials
- 75. Keith Brown- Bordeaux:** DDJ complete the other half of the Forbes-Brown dual platforms overlooking a rapidly recovering farm
- 76. Heraldo Richards- Bordeaux:** Tim, Cherie and Jason build their first tent platform
- 77. Blanca Sandin- Havensight:** the recovery crew clears off the first floor of this once beautiful home; Mrs. Sandin offers her car to Sammy and others to show her gratitude.
- 78. Bayside Inn- Bolongo Bay:** on two separate days our recovery crew helps this small business that has helped us so much; general clean-up, painting, landscaping; thanks to Carol and Brad!!
- 79. Dead cat- Bordeaux:** a rather bloated feline is put to rest in a shallow unmarked grave; we think it was mostly dead at the time; fresh air blows through Bordeaux once again; Scott doesn't smell too good however
- 80. Fitzroy Libord- Bordeaux:** two tent platforms by DDJ and TJJ; the dog-fighting Rastafarian
- 81. Austin Todman- Smith Bay:** a final assist to the Lutherans for a family that had half of its trailer destroyed; Bill and CR-Dorothy score a dumptruck from the National Guard; Cherie become a truckdriver
- 82. John Ludvig- Bordeaux:** tent platform material delivery

83. Jose Belardo- Bordeaux: tent platform material delivery in the dark by two zombies

84. Charles Leonard- Bordeaux: tent platform materials delivery

85. Dawn Knight- Bordeaux: tent only delivery

86. William- Bordeaux: TJJ construct a tent platform

87. Phil Pott- Fortuna: tent platform material delivery

88. Derrick Hodge- Fortuna: tent platform material delivery

89. Nevon Larson- Bordeaux: tent platform material delivery with an assist by Nathaniel

90. Jawini- Bordeaux: tent delivery only

91. Family #1/Tabernacle- Bordeaux: tent delivery

92. Sylvester Grant- Bordeaux: tent platform materials delivery

93. Jane Doe- Bordeaux: DDJ build an extension onto a Mennonite constructed tent platform to move tent and avoid the potential of falling rocks; their last work project

94. Denise Petersen- Bordeaux: tent platform materials delivery

95. Clyde Paris- Bordeaux: tent platform materials delivery

96. Timothy Turnbull- Bordeaux: tent platform materials delivery

97. Family #2/Tabernacle- Bordeaux: tent delivery

98. Family #3/Tabernacle- Bordeaux: tent delivery

99. William White- Bordeaux: tent platform materials delivery

100. Jean Chance- Bordeaux: tent delivery

101. The Tire Incident- Fortuna: what a miserable day! Mark and Scott wait for lumber that never shows and get a flat tire which takes several attempts to replace with a spare because the the jack isn't long enough to raise the truck high enough to get the flat off; the spare is finally put on only to find out that the other front tire is flat; The TJJ crew rescues us with a trip to the tire repair shop.

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Ana Gomes
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Tyronza AR 72386
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Vontese Crawford
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Springfield VA 22152

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503-482-3497 (h)

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360- 765-2228

Dengue Fever: Update Information for Response Personnel

Introduction:

Dengue fever is common throughout the tropics, and is present every year in the Virgin Islands. This fact sheet will provide you with important health and safety information while you are responding to the aftermath of Hurricane Marilyn.

Cause:

Dengue fever is caused by a virus transmitted by the mosquito *Aedes aegypti*. The mosquito gets infected by biting a person who is sick with dengue. After about 10 days the infected mosquito can pass the virus to a susceptible person when it feeds. Several other species of mosquito are common in the Virgin Islands but none can transmit dengue.

Aedes aegypti is a domestic species, closely associated with human habitation. It breeds in water in man-made containers, never in ponds or swamps. It is day-active, mainly biting in the afternoon and early morning. The other common mosquitoes in the Virgin Islands bite at dawn and dusk, or at night.

Symptoms of dengue:

Dengue usually begins with a sudden fever, followed by severe headache, joint and muscle pains. A characteristic rash may appear after a few days. Most patients recover within a week to ten days, but on rare occasions, the illness may be more severe, with spontaneous bleeding, shock and even death.

There is no vaccine for dengue. Patients should seek medical care. Fever should be controlled with acetaminophen ('Tylenol') but NOT WITH ASPIRIN, as this may increase the risk of bleeding. Seek medical care/advice if fever or other symptoms appear; Public Health Service is providing medical care at various sites including the DFO. If symptoms appear after you return home, inform your medical care provider of your travel to an endemic dengue area. Information may be obtained from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Division of Vector Borne Infectious Disease Dengue Branch in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The telephone number is (809) 766-5181.

Prevention:

Space spraying (fogging) from vehicles or aircraft is not effective against *Aedes aegypti*. The mosquito is best controlled by eliminating its breeding receptacles or treating them with insecticide.

Personal protection measures:

- Use insect repellent containing DEET (be sure to read the instructions);
- Keep mosquitoes out of living/sleeping quarters;
- Wear long pants and long-sleeved shirts;
- Eliminate all potential breeding receptacles in the area of your working/living area.

U. S. Public Health Service, Centers for Disease Control, San Juan Laboratories

September 27, 1995

VI Disaster Relief Project DeBriefing

11/20/95

609-633-9627

NAME

AGENCY

PHONE #

Donna Hines	USDA/OC-Natl Service	(202) 690-0693
Elizabeth Jones	USDA	202-690-3507
Larry Williams	FEMA	202-646-2852
Earl Taylor, Jr	USDA/RECD	202/690-0514
Connie Rothwell	USDA/RHS	720-2565
John M. Seymour	USDA-Forest Service	703-235-8843
Guanda Venev-Fitch	USDA-Forest Service	703-235-8842
Vassilisa Johri	CNS - ^{Special} Programs / Disaster Coord.	(202) 606-5000 x155
William Flanagan	USFS	(503) 899-1812
Katherine Gilbey	USDA/AmeriCorps	(202) 720-4369
John P. Pentecost	USDA - RECD/RHS	202 720-8983
Scott Burgwin	USDA - Forest Service	360-765-2228
Joel Berg	USDA - Director of Nat. Serv.	202-760-5746
John Guerez	FEMA (Point of Contact to CNS)	502-646-3947

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646-

2821

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Not employee -

On-site Dorothy Andrade
cell 717-439-3202
Head of

Harrisburg
Barbara @ Kambouris
REMA

717-671

Barbie

6754

SKK - Page

419-5314

To: Joel Berg
USDA/AmeriCorps

CC: Vassi Johri
Corporation for National Service

Final Situation Report 11/18

Margaret Peters was the only AmeriCorps member working in the Food Stamps program this week. She assisted USDA personnel tracking down duplicate applications.

FEMA project work continued this week with two days spent on St. John. We stopped accepting referrals for FEMA Community Relations project work last Saturday. We have 6 outstanding project referrals we were unable to contact or did not have time to complete. We are returning these projects to Community Relations for possible referral to other organizations. However, we know of no other groups providing the types of service we performed.

We continued with VOLAG tent erection projects for the Rastafarian Community. For every tent platform we constructed we were approached by several other individuals in need. Scott organized people in the Rastafarian community to build platforms for themselves and their neighbors. We arranged to have lumber delivered to a central location in the community where we could then distribute it to individual project locations. This will allow the people in the community to help each other after our departure.

AmeriCorps Members were treated to a recognition ceremony by FEMA Community Relations and VOLAG. Each received a bag of goodies from the Island and a certificate signed by James Lee Witt.

The AmeriCorps Hurricane Marilyn Recovery effort has been a success. In spite of significant challenges, we accomplished a tremendous amount of work. We would like to thank-you for the opportunity to have served in this disaster. We leave here with mixed feelings. We are aware that identified and unidentified needs continue and that many people will not have access to other assistance. However, we are proud of the work we have done and the many individuals and families we have helped. We have made a difference in peoples lives.

Sincerely,

The image shows two handwritten signatures in black ink. The signature on the left is 'Bill Fleeger' and the signature on the right is 'Scott Burgwin'. Both signatures are written in a cursive, flowing style.

Bill Fleeger

Scott Burgwin

AmeriCorps V.I. Recovery leaders

AmeriCorps- Hurricane Marilyn Recovery

U.S. Virgin Islands:

October 16, through November 19, 1995.



As you return to your "normal" lives, know that you have done a good thing by participating in the hurricane recovery process. You have touched many lives in the five weeks we have spent here. The projects we have completed are many and varied, just as the people we have helped. From the debris removal of a totally destroyed, and stench-ridden, trailer, to the cleaning of a small apartment of a "Ghandi-like" amputee, to the filing of Food Stamps certification forms, you have all shown brightly in this great team effort. You have all done the AmeriCorps name real good. Even as the future of the program is threatened, you have added another major victory to the AmeriCorps banner!

Thank you for all you have given.

"YOU CAN NEVER HAVE ENOUGH BUCKETS"

LIGHTS AND VIRTUES

Jackson Browne

*Here's to lights and virtues
Here's to truths yet to be known
Knowledge to light the darkness
The search for things of your own*

*Here's to lights and virtues
Here's to reaching higher ground
A life of hope and purpose
Here's to strength yet to be found
Honor--though it goes unrecognized
and truth--though liars abound*

*The pleasure of love and friendship
The courage to be alone*

PHONE NUMBERS YOU MAY NEED:

Donna Hines- (202) 690-0693 for questions about per diem, travel and stipend

Joel Berg- (202) 720-6350 for questions about the future of AmeriCorps

all questions should first be directed to your project sponsor.

“REMEMBER TO LIVE YOUR LIFE ONE DUMPSTER AT A TIME”
-DON'T SQUANDER THE SPACE YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN-

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There is no vaccine for dengue. Patients should be treated with acetaminophen ('Tylenol') but NOT with aspirin, as there is a risk of bleeding. Seek medical care/advice if you have dengue. The Health Service is providing medical care at various sites: in the field, at the airport, and at home. Inform your medical care provider. For more information, contact the U.S. Public Health Service, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Dengue Branch in San Francisco, CA. Phone: (415) 206-2500 or (809) 766-5181.

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Personal protection measures:

- Use insect repellent containing DEET.
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U. S. Public Health Service, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

September 27, 1995

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99. William White- Bordeaux: tent platform materials delivery

100. Jean Chance- Bordeaux: tent delivery

101. The Tire Incident- Fortuna: what a miserable day! Mark and Scott wait for lumber that never shows and get a flat tire which takes several attempts to replace with a spare because the the jack isn't long enough to raise the truck high enough to get the flat off; the spare is finally put on only to find out that the other front tire is flat; The TJJ crew rescues us with a trip to the tire repair shop.

To: Joel Berg
USDA/AmeriCorps

CC: Vassi Johri
Corporation for National Service

Final Situation Report 11/18

Margaret Peters was the only AmeriCorps member working in the Food Stamps program this week. She assisted USDA personnel tracking down duplicate applications.

FEMA project work continued this week with two days spent on St. John. We stopped accepting referrals for FEMA Community Relations project work last Saturday. We have 6 outstanding project referrals we were unable to contact or did not have time to complete. We are returning these projects to Community Relations for possible referral to other organizations. However, we know of no other groups providing the types of service we performed.

We continued with VOLAG tent erection projects for the Rastafarian Community. For every tent platform we constructed we were approached by several other individuals in need. Scott organized people in the Rastafarian community to build platforms for themselves and their neighbors. We arranged to have lumber delivered to a central location in the community where we could then distribute it to individual project locations. This will allow the people in the community to help each other after our departure.

AmeriCorps Members were treated to a recognition ceremony by FEMA Community Relations and VOLAG. Each received a bag of goodies from the Island and a certificate signed by James Lee Witt.

The AmeriCorps Hurricane Marilyn Recovery effort has been a success. In spite of significant challenges, we accomplished a tremendous amount of work. We would like to thank-you for the opportunity to have served in this disaster. We leave here with mixed feelings. We are aware that identified and unidentified needs continue and that many people will not have access to other assistance. However, we are proud of the work we have done and the many individuals and families we have helped. We have made a difference in peoples lives.

Sincerely,



Bill Fleeger



Scott Burgwin

AmeriCorps V.I. Recovery leaders

AmeriCorps- Hurricane Marilyn Recovery

U.S. Virgin Islands:

October 16, through November 19, 1995.



As you return to your "normal" lives, know that you have done a good thing by participating in the hurricane recovery process. You have touched many lives in the five weeks we have spent here. The projects we have completed are many and varied, just as the people we have helped. From the debris removal of a totally destroyed, and stench-ridden, trailer, to the cleaning of a small apartment of a "Ghandi-like" amputee, to the filing of Food Stamps certification forms, you have all shown brightly in this great team effort. You have all done the AmeriCorps name real good. Even as the future of the program is threatened, you have added another major victory to the AmeriCorps banner!

Thank you for all you have given.

"YOU CAN NEVER HAVE ENOUGH BUCKETS"

LIGHTS AND VIRTUES

Jackson Browne

Here's to lights and virtues

Here's to truths yet to be known

Knowledge to light the darkness

The search for things of your own

Here's to lights and virtues

Here's to reaching higher ground

A life of hope and purpose

Here's to strength yet to be found

Honor--though it goes unrecognized

and truth--though liars abound

The pleasure of love and friendship

The courage to be alone

PHONE NUMBERS YOU MAY NEED:

Donna Hines- (202) 690-0693 for questions about per diem, travel and stipend

Joel Berg- (202) 720-6350 for questions about the future of AmeriCorps
all questions should first be directed to your project sponsor.

“REMEMBER TO LIVE YOUR LIFE ONE DUMPSTER AT A TIME”
-DON'T SQUANDER THE SPACE YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN-

V.I. Recovery AmeriCorps Members

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Oberlin OH 44074

Tim Craddock
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Barboursville WV 25504
304-743-1533

Jimmy Luevanos
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Oxnard CA 93033
805-486-7927

Abby Gage
PO Box 12
Cleveland SC 29635
803-836-5647

Ana Gomes
PO Box 3928
Durango CO 81302

Charlet Meredith
702 Wood^{acre} Rd
Jackson MS 39206

Mark Van Ravenswaay
RRI Box 396, 407 4th St.
Estelline SD 57234
609-873-2533

Ryan Webster
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Oxford KS 67119

William Glenn
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Los Angeles CA 90019
213-938-7398

Jason Hansen
448 Hastings
Port Townsend WA 98368
360-385-3448

Cheri Ude
PO Box 145
Clinton WA 98236
360-341-1630

Yvette Bocz
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N. Hills CA 91343
818-895-6178

Sammy Bausley
7241 Union
Chicago IL 60621

Margaret Peters
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Tyronza AR 72386
501-358-2317

John Glenn
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Olympia WA 98501
360-923-0720

Vontese Crawford
444 S. Kingsley Dr. #208
Los Angeles CA 90020

Alex Gonzalez
710 S. 7th St.
Milwaukee WI 53205

Daniel Noonan
6710 Norview Ct.
Springfield VA 22152

Project Leaders:

Bill Fleeger
5590 Old Hwy 99 S.
Ashland OR 97520
503-899-1812 (w)
503-482-3497 (h)

Scott Burgwin
PO Box 346
Indianola WA 98342
360- 765-2228

Dengue Fever: Update Information for Response Personnel

Introduction:

Dengue fever is common throughout the tropics, and is present every year in the Virgin Islands. This fact sheet will provide you with important health and safety information while you are responding to the aftermath of Hurricane Marilyn.

Cause:

Dengue fever is caused by a virus transmitted by the mosquito *Aedes aegypti*. The mosquito gets infected by biting a person who is sick with dengue. After about 10 days the infected mosquito can pass the virus to a susceptible person when it feeds. Several other species of mosquito are common in the Virgin Islands but none can transmit dengue.

Aedes aegypti is a domestic species, closely associated with human habitation. It breeds in water in man-made containers, never in ponds or swamps. It is day-active, mainly biting in the afternoon and early morning. The other common mosquitoes in the Virgin Islands bite at dawn and dusk, or at night.

Symptoms of dengue:

Dengue usually begins with a sudden fever, followed by severe headache, joint and muscle pains. A characteristic rash may appear after a few days. Most patients recover within a week to ten days, but on rare occasions, the illness may be more severe, with spontaneous bleeding, shock and even death.

There is no vaccine for dengue. Patients should seek medical care. Fever should be controlled with acetaminophen ('Tylenol') but NOT WITH ASPIRIN, as this may increase the risk of bleeding. Seek medical care/advice if fever or other symptoms appear; Public Health Service is providing medical care at various sites including the DFO. If symptoms appear after you return home, inform your medical care provider of your travel to an endemic dengue area. Information may be obtained from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Division of Vector Borne Infectious Disease Dengue Branch in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The telephone number is (809) 766-5181.

Prevention:

Space spraying (fogging) from vehicles or aircraft is not effective against *Aedes aegypti*. The mosquito is best controlled by eliminating its breeding receptacles or treating them with insecticide.

Personal protection measures:

- Use insect repellent containing DEET (be sure to read the instructions);
- Keep mosquitoes out of living/sleeping quarters;
- Wear long pants and long-sleeved shirts;
- Eliminate all potential breeding receptacles in the area of your working/living area.

U. S. Public Health Service, Centers for Disease Control, San Juan Laboratories

September 27, 1995

AmeriCorps Virgin Islands Recovery Accomplishments

- 1. Florence Phillips- Mandal:** the first outdoor job; lots of debris and nowhere to put it; built some stairs
- 2. Clarence Calistro- Hospital Ground:** cleaned debris and garbage from a local FEMA worker's grandmother's house; cut trees with carpenter's saw!
- 3. Ricardo Williams- Tutu:** cleaned-up trash and debris around house and helped construct temporary roof to hold tarp
- 4. Rastafarian Community- Bordeaux Farm:** assisted Mennonite Disaster Service in construction of 9 tent platforms
- 5. Mariann Batiste- Tutu Valley:** the first roof removal; a wonderful and appreciative person; we figured out that a large crew gets more done than a small crew??!
- 6. Emergency response- Dorothea:** Bill, along with a FEMA-CR person, helped a homeless person move their belongings from the road side to a more secure place
- 7. Bernadette Gonsalves- Wintberg:** general debris removal from around the house and a very disgusting refrigerator
- 8. Terry and Italia Brunn- Wintberg:** general debris clean-up for a nice couple- Jimmy ramrods for the Seamsters Union.
- 9. Sean Penn- Coki Point:** lots of debris and Scott gets taken to the cleaners
- 10. Herman Charles- Lower John Dunko:** removal of hanging insulation and damaged ceiling; installation of tarp
- 11. Viola Liburd- Lower John Dunko:** same as Herman Charles, but on a smaller scale
- 12. Vivian Queeman- Mahogany Estate:** the notorious PVC adventure, directed by Jimmy, with Scott playing the gopher; removed pile of rubble

13. Beatrice Crime- Contant: three cement block walls that had fallen were removed making it safe to walk again

14. Patricia Thomas- Contant: removed small amount of garbage and realized our limitations concerning going onto and fixing roofs

15. Mary Jackson- Contant: removed damaged ceiling tiles and taught us that we can't staple into metal or glass?

16. Lutheran School- King Quarter: assisted Lutheran's in removing debris from school

17. Louis Guerrard- Mandal: removed sheet metal from field

18. Rastafarian Community- Bordeaux: Charlet takes stoves and other goodies to the Rastas, with Brad from FEMA-CR

19. Olivia Maduro- Hospital Ground: removed sheet metal and other debris from the gut in front of her house; Tim sliced his forearm, and Richard tried walking on nails

20. Robby La Place- Mandal: the trailer; the mess; the stench; Vontese wishes she had ten hands; Ana smiles on the front page; Dan is promoted to project leader; the lunch; Jimmy tests the strength of his shin; twisted steel; hellacious pile of everything stable and moving; scorpions, tarantulas, and skeletons

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99. William White- Bordeaux: tent platform materials delivery

100. Jean Chance- Bordeaux: tent delivery

101. The Tire Incident- Fortuna: what a miserable day! Mark and Scott wait for lumber that never shows and get a flat tire which takes several attempts to replace with a spare because the the jack isn't long enough to raise the truck high enough to get the flat off; the spare is finally put on only to find out that the other front tire is flat; The TJJ crew rescues us with a trip to the tire repair shop.

VI Disaster Relief Project DeBrueking
11/20/95

NAME	AGENCY	PHONE #
Donna Hines	USDA/CC-Nat'l Service	(202) 690-0693
Elizabeth Jones	USDA	202-690-3507
Larry Williams	FEMA	202-646-2852
Earl Taylor, Jr	USDA/RECD	202/690-0514
Connie Rothwell	USDA/RMS	720-2565
John M Seymour	USDA-Forest Service	703-235-8843
Guanda Yoney-Fitch	USDA-Forest Service	703-235-8842
Vassilisa Johri	CNS. ^{Special} Programs / Disaster Coord.	(202) 606-5000 x155
William Flanagan	USFS	(803) 899-1812
Katherine Gilbreath	USDA/AmeriCorps	(202) 720-4369
John P Pentecost	USDA - RECD/RMS	202 720-8983
Scott Burgwin	USDA - Forest Service	360-765-2228
Joel Berg	USDA-Director of Nat. Serv.	202-760-5746
John Guerre	FEMA (Point of Contact to CNS)	802-646-3947

to mention
direct deposit

CASH



UNITED
STATES
DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE



OCTOBER 26, 1995

TO: Martha Phipps, Clark Ray, Charlie Rawls

FROM: Elizabeth Jones *EJ*

RE: Audio Conference on Virgin Islands Disaster Relief Team

We expect the AmeriCorps Members in the Virgin Islands to return to the Mainland on or around November 20, 1995. Due to budgetary restraints, they will go directly home from St. Thomas, and there will be no chance for us to hold a Washington ceremony to recognize their efforts. Therefore, we would like to propose a audio teleconference with our Members that would both attract regional media coverage and demonstrate our appreciation for their service.

We propose that Secretary or the Deputy Secretary would have a ten to fifteen minute conference call with the Members on any day between November 17 or November 21 --- either immediately before or immediately after they return to the mainland. We would provide an audio feed of the program to local radio stations and newspapers from the hometowns of the Members. The discussion would focus on both the effort in the Virgin Islands and the previous year's accomplishments of the members in their local areas. Such an event should make news in the small and medium markets that we would target --- such as Medford, Oregon. This event could, albeit subtly, highlight the negative impact of Republican budget cuts in rural areas.

Whether or not we can have such conference call, we hope that each Member serving in the Islands would receive a Certificate of Appreciation signed by the Secretary. These Certificates would not necessitate a monetary award.

If you have any questions please call me at 690-3507. Thanks for your help.

CC: Tom Amontree

FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY

To: Peg Rosenberry, Hank Oltmann, Steve Selby
From: Vassilisa Johri
Re: Virgin Islands Disaster Project de-briefing
Date: November 20, 1994

This morning, the USDA Office of Community and National Service conducted a Virgin Islands Disaster Relief Project de-briefing with representatives from FEMA, USDA, the Corporation, and the two project leaders, Bill Fleeger and Scott Burgwin. Yesterday marked the closing date for the project's five-week tour of service, and eighteen AmeriCorps Members headed home. Participants discussed what went right and what went wrong, and provided opportunities for Bill and Scott to voice their concerns and recommendations with representatives from all three organizations involved.

When a national disaster occurs, the Federal Response Plan, coordinated by FEMA, goes into effect. Twenty-eight federal agencies and the American Red Cross work under 12 Emergency Support Functions, or ESFs, to assist local resources (Some examples of ESFs are Transportation, Mass Care, Fire Fighting, and Energy). Bill explained that the AmeriCorps team essentially worked on three different types of projects. They assisted the USDA, which oversees ESF 11 (Food), with food and food stamp distribution; they worked on tasks assigned by FEMA's Community Relations cadre dealing with debris removal and assistance to the elderly and disabled; and they assisted with various projects through the Voluntary Organizations (VOLAGS) including tent erection for the Rastafarian Community. In total, the team completed 101 projects under extremely dangerous conditions. Terrain was exceptionally steep and the team needed to be careful of sharp objects, tarantulas, scorpions, and infectious diseases. Luckily, Members completed their tour with only minor injuries. The team endured harsh weather and a significant portion of their stay was without electricity or hot water.

This project is a perfect example of AmeriCorps' capacity to "get things done" even when logistical support is not available. The team worked six days a week. The 19 Members were described as "outstanding and incredible." They were known as "Angels" by the Islanders. But even with this positive image, the project leaders noted that it was sometimes difficult to keep people motivated under such severe circumstances. Bill and Scott created small summaries for each project accomplished to remind the team of their achievements and their reason for being there (see attached).

RECOMMENDATIONS

Bill mentioned three areas that needed improvement. He felt that if these three points were not addressed, future disaster efforts would be seriously jeopardized, and should not even be attempted. The three areas are:

- 1) Financial Support
- 2) Member Selection
- 3) Relationship to FEMA

Financial Support. Bill stated that accessing travel money, procurement, and stipends for the Members were all problematic. Money for travel and stipends did not come through when expected. In fact, stipends were received by Members only a few days before the end of their tour, and Bill had to set up a personal bank account to receive government funds. Project goals and team morale were threatened because appropriate mechanisms for money transfer were not in place. It fueled confusion among the Members, and complications within the Corps. Logistics need to be a high priority, and an implementation and planning network needs to be in place before people leave for assignments.

Joel Berg faulted personnel from the Rural Economic and Community Development (RECD) office who were involved in the initial project planning meeting before the Corporation and FEMA became involved. He explained that he had stated that his staff would not have the resources to head the logistics of this operation. He requested three full-time staff people from RECD, however, RECD did not follow through, leaving Donna Hines to head logistics among her other priorities. Another problem arose through the Rural Housing and Community Development Service (RHCDS) Vermont office that was originally designated to handle budget concerns and financial transactions (USDA responsibility for the Virgin Islands is through the Vermont state agency). The Vermont office paid one invoice, but then delayed processes by questioning the validity of basic expenditures. Midway through the project, USDA decided to handle finance and payment from Washington. Although the switch was made to expedite matters, the initial Vermont office delay, as well as, yet another task assigned to USDA's overburdened staff, detained funds from reaching the project and its Members in a timely fashion.

Payroll coordination was "nightmarish" because AmeriCorps Members came from different states and programs, some of which were funded directly, others of which were sub grantees through other organizations. Donna added that part of the slow passage of funds to Members was due to caution in getting money to the appropriate people. In the future, additional staff would be necessary to take on project logistics. The lack of follow-up by RECD to ensure adequate staffing seriously affected the project.

It was suggested that USDA (ESF 11) at the Disaster Field Office (DFO) could have been better utilized as an on-the-ground contact. Also, USDA HQ did not work with its emergency management coordinator who already has a rapport with FEMA, and is familiar with Federal Response Plan procedures (including mission assignment and procurement). Bill suggested using direct deposits for stipends. John Guerre reiterated the importance of having someone at the disaster immediately following its occurrence to set up logistics and partnerships. I expressed that the Corporation was committed to that, and until a protocol is in place, myself, and possibly one other person will take on that responsibility.

To ensure the success of a disaster response project, an emergency management coordinator who has knowledge about the Corporation, FEMA/the Federal Response Plan, and disasters would need to be sent to the disaster immediately after its occurrence. This person would work with FEMA at the DFO for 2-3 weeks setting up the project. The coordinator should be a person with work/supervisor experience who can identify needs. Since the coordinator will require knowledge over a variety of topics, it is advisable to have two people fill this role together until one person can focus on all the areas. Also, since disasters are unpredictable, and identified coordinators may not always be available, a pool of people who can be called upon should be identified.

Member Selection. Bill stated that all of the Members chosen were impressive, however there were some who were not appropriately chosen for the strenuousness of the project: some arrived without proper equipment and gear. It was learned that some Members nominated themselves as opposed to being nominated by their Project Managers. Also, some Members were not physically or emotionally capable to do the work (One Member was only 30 days into recovery from alcoholism. Others had pre-existing injuries, or simply could not do manual labor in the intense heat.) Overall, 14 of 19 Members were well chosen. Some project managers did not choose Members according to the request sent to them from Joel's office, which described ideal candidates, and the conditions under which the Members were expected to work. Instead, some Members were chosen because they would enjoy the experience or because they had a close relationship to their project manager.

Project managers were allowed to recommend candidates with relatively little oversight from USDA because of time constraints in identifying Members for the team (there were only a few days available to access the end-of-year funds). In the future, we should not allow as much leeway in the selection process. Candidates should go through a pre-identification process, and even if they are recruited locally, they should not be selected locally. Project managers should interview each of their candidates. Expectations for the project would also need to be better articulated and stressed. This would require a better information flow, detailing what Members are getting into,

what they need to bring, and what their travel arrangements will be. Conversely, the Project Leaders, in this case, Bill and Scott, would need more information about the Members. Bill suggested that a person who understands Corporation programs, especially AmeriCorps, and the needs at the national level; as well as knowing what is needed in a disaster should oversee the selection process.

Relationship with FEMA. Although our new partnership with FEMA is positive and cooperative, Bill and Scott experienced some frustration with FEMA Community Relations personnel at the DFO. This can be attributed to misinformation or lack of information at the ground level. Barbara Kambouris, who succeeded John Guerre as Deputy Director of the Community Relations (CR) cadre, was not familiar with the recent MOU, nor was she able to identify a capacity in which USDA AmeriCorps could fit into the already operating Federal Response Plan. Since the team arrived after FEMA issued initial mission assignments, CR maintained that, without a mission assignment, FEMA would only be able to identify tasks, but not provide supplies, equipment, and other resources. CR would not be able to provide resources and materials to undertake those tasks. This was a point of frustration for Bill and Scott, since resources were available, but not accessible.

Ironically, since most agencies work through mission assignments and funding from FEMA; the fact that this project used end-of-year funds from Undersecretary Long-Thompson's office (RECD), making it financially self-sufficient, actually complicated matters. FEMA was unable to mission assign the project, partially because USDA had already been mission assigned through ESF 11, and because mission assignment was not easily attainable in the later stages of the recovery process (the A*USDA team arrived when the Federal Response Plan was four weeks into recovery). Eventually, Bill and Scott were able to obtain tools, supplies, and equipment, some of which was through the DFO in an "unofficial" capacity. As Scott and Bill explained it, "The more we did, the more we accomplished, the more good press we received, the more resources became available."

There was some initial "turfism" that emerged from the confusion of AmeriCorps' role. Barbara was unclear as to why the team was there at all since they did not fit into any one clear ESF. Also, it was unclear as to whether the team would work through CR or through ESF 11, USDA. Both CR and USDA were under the impression that the team would be working exclusively for them. They compromised by assigning 5 Members to ESF 11 and 14 Members to CR.

It was a pre-requisite for the team to be "self-sufficient," however, Bill found that the term was so loosely defined that he was expected to have resources available in a "resource-scarce" environment. Bill and Scott were required to create an operation plan and mission statement. It was decided that in the

future, these materials would be established by the disaster coordinator who arrives immediately after the disaster has occurred.

Bill and Scott created a significant rapport with the VOLAGS. VOLAGS helped the team with the acquisition of tools and supplies. The team's work with VOLAGS raised the question, "Where should Corporation programs fit into the Federal Response Plan? Under which ESF should they work?" Ideally, Bill suggested that Corporation programs be put under a separate ESF for Emergency Service Functions that can work across various other ESFs. John Guerre hoped that the Corporation would soon become an official signatory of the Federal Response Plan, making it the 29th agency.

The project leaders chosen for this project needed to be informed, resourceful, and able to handle the stress of putting the concrete logistics together on the ground level. Bill and Scott did an outstanding job. They were thorough and productive in their efforts while still keeping in mind the importance of the image of AmeriCorps, and respecting its partnership with FEMA. They were wholeheartedly concerned about the well being of their Members, and they demonstrated sincere efforts to help the Virgin Island community.

Many of the mechanisms that were out of place were directly due to the unique circumstances of this project: the fact that this opportunity arose when a formal protocol with FEMA had not yet been devised, the complication of an outside funding source other than FEMA, and the nature of a catastrophic disaster on an island without easy access to external resources. Despite these internal glitches, the A*USDA disaster response project was very successful. The Virgin Islanders had considerable praise for the team's work, and requested an AmeriCorps team that could provide a continuing presence in disaster assistance on the Islands. Ultimately, a strong working relationship was established with FEMA as well as with the Voluntary Organizations.

We did not do any media outreach for this project and told USDA not to as well. This did not stop one local newspaper in Kansas from doing an article on a hometown Member. While we did not do any national press, the feeling in the Virgin Islands was so positive that the "Virgin Islands Daily" wrote a front page article. FEMA also featured AmeriCorps on their Recovery Channel. This channel was the only televised transmission available on the islands. It provides information and updates on the recovery process. This media coverage was overwhelmingly positive. Some of the video footage is truly compelling, and could be useful in the future for PSAs, recruitment videos, etc. Who should I contact within the Corporation about possible use of this footage and other positive aspects of this disaster activity?

Enclosed: Final Situation Report
Attendance List

Cc: Shirley Sagawa
Jay Toscano
Tracy Gray
Joel Berg
Donna Hines ✓
William Fleeger
Scott Burgwin
John Guerre
Larry Williams

**V.I. DISASTER RELIEF PROJECT DE-BRIEFING
ATTENDANCE**

NAME

AGENCY

Donna Hines	USDA/OC-Nat'l Service
Elizabeth Jones	USDA
Larry Williams	FEMA
Earl Taylor II	USDA/RECD
Connie Rothwell	USDA/RHS
John M. Seymour	USDA-Forest Service
Guanda Veney-Finch	USDA-Forest Service
Vassilisa Johri	CNS-PPD/Disaster Coordination
William Fleeger	USDA-Forest Service
Katherine Gibney	USDA/AmeriCorps
John P. Penticot	USDA/RECD/RHS
Scott Burgwin	USDA-Forest Service
Joel Berg	USDA/ Dtr., Nat'l Service
John Guerre	FEMA (CNS Point-of Contact)

To: Joel Berg
USDA/AmeriCorps

CC: Vassi Johri
Corporation for National Service

Final Situation Report 11/18

Margaret Peters was the only AmeriCorps member working in the Food Stamps program this week. She assisted USDA personnel tracking down duplicate applications.

FEMA project work continued this week with two days spent on St. John. We stopped accepting referrals for FEMA Community Relations project work last Saturday. We have 6 outstanding project referrals we were unable to contact or did not have time to complete. We are returning these projects to Community Relations for possible referral to other organizations. However, we know of no other groups providing the types of service we performed.

We continued with VOLAG tent erection projects for the Rastafarian Community. For every tent platform we constructed we were approached by several other individuals in need. Scott organized people in the Rastafarian community to build platforms for themselves and their neighbors. We arranged to have lumber delivered to a central location in the community where we could then distribute it to individual project locations. This will allow the people in the community to help each other after our departure.

AmeriCorps Members were treated to a recognition ceremony by FEMA Community Relations and VOLAG. Each received a bag of goodies from the Island and a certificate signed by James Lee Witt.

The AmeriCorps Hurricane Marilyn Recovery effort has been a success. In spite of significant challenges, we accomplished a tremendous amount of work. We would like to thank-you for the opportunity to have served in this disaster. We leave here with mixed feelings. We are aware that identified and unidentified needs continue and that many people will not have access to other assistance. However, we are proud of the work we have done and the many individuals and families we have helped. We have made a difference in peoples lives.

Sincerely,


Bill Fleeger Scott Burgwin

AmeriCorps V.I. Recovery leaders

AmeriCorps- Hurricane Marilyn Recovery

U.S. Virgin Islands:

October 16, through November 19, 1995.



As you return to your "normal" lives, know that you have done a good thing by participating in the hurricane recovery process. You have touched many lives in the five weeks we have spent here. The projects we have completed are many and varied, just as the people we have helped. From the debris removal of a totally destroyed, and stench-ridden, trailer, to the cleaning of a small apartment of a "Ghandi-like" amputee, to the filing of Food Stamps certification forms, you have all shown brightly in this great team effort. You have all done the AmeriCorps name real good. Even as the future of the program is threatened, you have added another major victory to the AmeriCorps banner!

Thank you for all you have given.

"YOU CAN NEVER HAVE ENOUGH BUCKETS"

LIGHTS AND VIRTUES

Jackson Browne

Here's to lights and virtues

Here's to truths yet to be known

Knowledge to light the darkness

The search for things of your own

Here's to lights and virtues

Here's to reaching higher ground

A life of hope and purpose

Here's to strength yet to be found

Honor--though it goes unrecognized

and truth--though liars abound

The pleasure of love and friendship

The courage to be alone

PHONE NUMBERS YOU MAY NEED:

Donna Hines- (202) 690-0693 for questions about per diem, travel and stipend

Joel Berg- (202) 720-6350 for questions about the future of AmeriCorps

all questions should first be directed to your project sponsor.

“REMEMBER TO LIVE YOUR LIFE ONE DUMPSTER AT A TIME”
-DON'T SQUANDER THE SPACE YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN-

V.I. Recovery AmeriCorps Members

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503-482-3497 (h)

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Indianola WA 98342
360- 765-2228

Dengue Fever: Update Information for Response Personnel

Introduction:

Dengue fever is common throughout the tropics, and is present every year in the Virgin Islands. This fact sheet will provide you with important health and safety information while you are responding to the aftermath of Hurricane Marilyn.

Cause:

Dengue fever is caused by a virus transmitted by the mosquito *Aedes aegypti*. The mosquito gets infected by biting a person who is sick with dengue. After about 10 days the infected mosquito can pass the virus to a susceptible person when it feeds. Several other species of mosquito are common in the Virgin Islands but none can transmit dengue.

Aedes aegypti is a domestic species, closely associated with human habitation. It breeds in water in man-made containers, never in ponds or swamps. It is day-active, mainly biting in the afternoon and early morning. The other common mosquitoes in the Virgin Islands bite at dawn and dusk, or at night.

Symptoms of dengue:

Dengue usually begins with a sudden fever, followed by severe headache, joint and muscle pains. A characteristic rash may appear after a few days. Most patients recover within a week to ten days, but on rare occasions, the illness may be more severe, with spontaneous bleeding, shock and even death.

There is no vaccine for dengue. Patients should seek medical care. Fever should be controlled with acetaminophen ('Tylenol') but NOT WITH ASPIRIN, as this may increase the risk of bleeding. Seek medical care/advice if fever or other symptoms appear; Public Health Service is providing medical care at various sites including the DFO. If symptoms appear after you return home, inform your medical care provider of your travel to an endemic dengue area. Information may be obtained from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Division of Vector Borne Infectious Disease Dengue Branch in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The telephone number is (809) 766-5181.

Prevention:

Space spraying (fogging) from vehicles or aircraft is not effective against *Aedes aegypti*. The mosquito is best controlled by eliminating its breeding receptacles or treating them with insecticide.

Personal protection measures:

- Use insect repellent containing DEET (be sure to read the instructions);
- Keep mosquitoes out of living/sleeping quarters;
- Wear long pants and long-sleeved shirts;
- Eliminate all potential breeding receptacles in the area of your working/living area.

U. S. Public Health Service, Centers for Disease Control, San Juan Laboratories

September 27, 1995

AmeriCorps Virgin Islands Recovery Accomplishments

- 1. Florence Phillips- Mandal:** the first outdoor job; lots of debris and nowhere to put it; built some stairs
- 2. Clarence Calistro- Hospital Ground:** cleaned debris and garbage from a local FEMA worker's grandmother's house; cut trees with carpenter's saw!
- 3. Ricardo Williams- Tutu:** cleaned-up trash and debris around house and helped construct temporary roof to hold tarp
- 4. Rastafarian Community- Bordeaux Farm:** assisted Mennonite Disaster Service in construction of 9 tent platforms
- 5. Mariann Batiste- Tutu Valley:** the first roof removal; a wonderful and appreciative person; we figured out that a large crew gets more done than a small crew??!
- 6. Emergency response- Dorothea:** Bill, along with a FEMA-CR person, helped a homeless person move their belongings from the road side to a more secure place
- 7. Bernadette Gonsalves- Wintberg:** general debris removal from around the house and a very disgusting refrigerator
- 8. Terry and Italia Brunn- Wintberg:** general debris clean-up for a nice couple- Jimmy ramrods for the Seamsters Union.
- 9. Sean Penn- Coki Point:** lots of debris and Scott gets taken to the cleaners
- 10. Herman Charles- Lower John Dunko:** removal of hanging insulation and damaged ceiling; installation of tarp
- 11. Viola Liburd- Lower John Dunko:** same as Herman Charles, but on a smaller scale
- 12. Vivian Queeman- Mahogany Estate:** the notorious PVC adventure, directed by Jimmy, with Scott playing the gopher; removed pile of rubble

13. Beatrice Crime- Contant: three cement block walls that had fallen were removed making it safe to walk again

14. Patricia Thomas- Contant: removed small amount of garbage and realized our limitations concerning going onto and fixing roofs

15. Mary Jackson- Contant: removed damaged ceiling tiles and taught us that we can't staple into metal or glass?

16. Lutheran School- King Quarter: assisted Lutheran's in removing debris from school

17. Louis Guerrard- Mandal: removed sheet metal from field

18. Rastafarian Community- Bordeaux: Charlet takes stoves and other goodies to the Rastas, with Brad from FEMA-CR

19. Olivia Maduro- Hospital Ground: removed sheet metal and other debris from the gut in front of her house; Tim sliced his forearm, and Richard tried walking on nails

20. Robby La Place- Mandal: the trailer; the mess; the stench; Vontese wishes she had ten hands; Ana smiles on the front page; Dan is promoted to project leader; the lunch; Jimmy tests the strength of his shin; twisted steel; hellacious pile of everything stable and moving; scorpions, tarantulas, and skeletons

21. Edna Callwood- Tutu Valley: another day another roof removed at record rate; a real sheety day

22. Jocelyn Monsanto- Tutu Valley: Tutu Valley, must be another roof; a very twisted roof and a couple of trees; John earns trip to FEMA Medical Unit with sculpted wrist

23. Muriel Brewley- Tutu Highrise: Scott demonstrates the use of a Coleman stove and lantern; did anybody see his eyebrows?

24. James Webster- Bovoni: Mr. and Mrs. Webster were on hand to direct the debris removal and sorting; they wanted to save alot of things; quickly completed.

37. Food Stamp work- St. Croix: Vontese and Yvette wow 'em on St. Croix and help the USDA finish up their operations there

38. Food Stamp work- St. Thomas: everyone got a shot at this as it went from day one to last day; assistance was given to USDA personnel in the certification and distribution process at up to 5 locations

39. Sarah Matthews: Tutu Valley: quick work on a contact made by us removing part of a roof and clearing a path from the front yard to the backyard

40. Joe Potter- Tutu: yet another Mark and Ryan relief effort removing damaged furniture with Lutheran help

41. The Hills- Tutu: its getting boring but Mark and Ryan assist the Lutherans in removal of debris and damaged belongings

42. Leroy Boyce- Litton's Fancy: dancing on the roof by Tim, Jimmy, Ryan and Abby; reinforcing the roof and re-application of our special off-white tarp to stop major leaking; return trip on one of the primo jobs of the tour- building a two-story staircase; cudos to Cherie, Ryan, Tim and Mark

43. Molly Mills- Mafolie: lots of debris from around the house; took two days and 3 dump trucks to clear it out; one of those days with a VERY SMALL CREW!!!

44. Stove Demo- Donoe: Charlet and Dina show some scared folk how to use a Coleman stove and lantern

45. Stove Demo- Oswald Harris Court: more stove and lantern by the gas appliance queens

46. USDA- ESF 11- Special Project: Cherie hangs in the DFO doing a few reports for USDA folk

47. Earl Bedford- Bordeaux: the first of many tent platforms and tent assembly by our crack tent crew of John, Dina and Dan with a one day assist by Sammy and Will; there are very few flat spots on this island!

48. Olive Patrick- Bordeaux: tent crew number 2 offers their first rendition of the tent platform while attempting to prove that the platform can be

- 25. Trinita Hodge- Frydenhoj:** removed debris and sorted wood for a local FEMA person whose house was destroyed except for the bathroom
- 26. Olivia Maduro- Hospital Ground:** Dan, John and Ryan rebuilt the railings on this wood bridge; it is a good one, and a definite improvement
- 27. St. Thomas Livestock Association- Bonne Esperance:** lead by ramrod Tim, sheetmetal and other debris is removed from this non-profit's field; discovered we need monkeys in our tool bag to get sheetmetal out of trees
- 28. Webb Alick- Estate Tutu:** Ana and Mark help Lutherans remove debris and clean home
- 29. Ernesto and Ester Van ter Pool- Old Tutu:** another assist to Lutherans for debris removal and clean-up by Ana and Mark
- 30. Murphy Smith- Queen Quarter:** "Scott we need 4 flatheaded screwdrivers!!!!" application of crowbars negates this previous plea; hardheaded AmeriCorps members beatdown and shred an entire roof; Tim gets his arm in way of sheetmetal again.
- 31. Lillian Lopez- Queen Quarter:** removal of fallen branches and a dead sheetmetal fence and a well-deserved short day
- 32. Marva Ritter- Tutu Valley:** more debris and another roof; all done not enough tools!
- 33. George DeWerd- Hull:** a fine old man in a sad situation; a beautiful house that has suffered alot from Marilyn; removed debris, trash and Will done did what he did; we avoided the pool; for \$50 Dan would have been challenged to jump into the slimy soup, but alas! Dan wasn't there.
- 34. Judith Goodling- Anna's Retreat:** a Lutheran assist debris and damaged possession removal by the Ana and Mark Show.
- 35. Stove Demo- St. John:** Cheri lends a hand to a small group of elderly folks on the small island.
- 36. USDA Food distribution- St. Thomas:** help in the warehouse

flipped like a pancake; well.... you know those pancakes that you flip and they kind of hit the edge?

49. Charles Hughes- Bovoni: a good cleaning of this man's apartment and a ride to get him certified for Food Stamps; he had only been out of his apartment once since Marilyn; great job by Yvette, Cherie and Will

50. Fidelia Francis- Nadir: where have you heard this before: Ana and Mark help Lutherans clean-up debris and trash

51. Konger Gade Parsonage- King Quarter: Mark replants 260 year-old date palm tree "Markie Palmseed"

52. Frederick Lutheran Church- King Quarter: Ana and Mark continue their Lutheran ways and chop down a Royal Palm that is obstructing traffic- proving that what Ana and Mark giveth, A and M take away- the earth remains in balance

53. Bluebeard Hill Church- King Quarter: removal of branches from around a church as A and M near the conclusion of their religious quests

54. Reformation Lutheran Church- Tutu; set-up and construction of platforms to aid church activities as the assist to our Lutheran friends continues to turn toward a focus away from specific hurricane recovery for needy individuals; it takes us a while longer to wake-up

55. Reuben Wheatley- Havensight: a small amount of debris and some branches; referred by letter to FEMA

56. Mary Moorhead- an emergency movement of personal belongings for an evicted person; Mark creases the loaner van

57. Calvin Wheatley- Crown and Hawk: a mostly destroyed house; we cleared the property around the house and filled 2 large dumpsters over parts of three days; Calvin lavished gifts upon our members

58. Margaret Charles- St. John: removed 6 dumptruck loads from home and yard in 3 and 1/2 hours

59. I. Daniels- St. John: removed debris into dumptruck; how did these St. John's people come up with one of them? sure could have used them earlier

60. Lutheran assist: the straws that broke the camels back, or certainly thumped his or her hump; we help clean-up an old place to house volunteers; and then help clean-up another place where some of them stay; Scott and Bill finally see the light that several members have been shining into their bleary eyes;

61. Clement Aubin- Contant: the clean-up crew of Charlet, Ana and Sammy clean walls and other parts of the house, remove some debris and offer moral support; with an assist by Joycelyn of Community Relations

62. Miriam Waters- Savan: the clean-up crew of C, A and S help this elderly blind woman spruce up her house

63. Ethel Hamm- Savan: another Coleman Stove demo

64. Roberto Francis- Bordeaux: the tent with the most spectacular view constructed by the loving hands of Dina, John and Dan- in the wrong place! but all was not lost, Francis will move it.

65. Nathaniel Meyers- Bordeaux: injury and sickness strikes tent crew #1 leaving only 3; this does not stop Dan, John and Dina; they forge on building one platform for every three names they collect of people needing their own tent condo

66. Leslie Payton- Fortuna: Tim, Jimmy and Jason construct a tent platform on a site where Tim had to remove some animal's feces with a decorator plastic cup before the Senator would proceed with the project; tent is for a Public Defender who is trying a major murder case

67. Warren Williams- Bordeaux: a tent platform by Dan, Dina and John (DDJ)

68. Dolly Penn- St. John: heroic work cleaning the very modest digs of this woman; all furniture was removed, simple shelving was built, and garbage was hauled away; with help from FEMA-CR, she was given a new small refrigerator and clean linen.

69. Olive Greaves- St. John: removed debris to curbside on the small island

- 70. Sylvester Hamilton- Bordeaux:** tent platform and truly nice man by Tim, Jason and Jimmy (TJJ)
- 71. Alphonso- Bordeaux:** tent crew #1 (DDJ) steep themselves in tent platform construction techniques
- 72. Clarence Cipio- St. John:** removed two truck loads of debris from around St. Ursulas Church
- 73. Earl Forbes- Bordeaux:** DDJ construct a high flying platform; the rock was a nice touch.
- 74. Byron Evans- Bordeaux:** delivery of tent and platform materials
- 75. Keith Brown- Bordeaux:** DDJ complete the other half of the Forbes-Brown dual platforms overlooking a rapidly recovering farm
- 76. Heraldo Richards- Bordeaux:** Tim, Cherie and Jason build their first tent platform
- 77. Blanca Sandin- Havensight:** the recovery crew clears off the first floor of this once beautiful home; Mrs. Sandin offers her car to Sammy and others to show her gratitude.
- 78. Bayside Inn- Bolongo Bay:** on two separate days our recovery crew helps this small business that has helped us so much; general clean-up, painting, landscaping; thanks to Carol and Brad!!
- 79. Dead cat- Bordeaux:** a rather bloated feline is put to rest in a shallow unmarked grave; we think it was mostly dead at the time; fresh air blows through Bordeaux once again; Scott doesn't smell too good however
- 80. Fitzroy Libord- Bordeaux:** two tent platforms by DDJ and TJJ; the dog-fighting Rastafarian
- 81. Austin Todman- Smith Bay:** a final assist to the Lutherans for a family that had half of its trailer destroyed; Bill and CR-Dorothy score a dumptruck from the National Guard; Cherie become a truckdriver
- 82. John Ludvig- Bordeaux:** tent platform material delivery

83. Jose Belardo- Bordeaux: tent platform material delivery in the dark by two zombies

84. Charles Leonard- Bordeaux: tent platform materials delivery

85. Dawn Knight- Bordeaux: tent only delivery

86. William- Bordeaux: TJJ construct a tent platform

87. Phil Pott- Fortuna: tent platform material delivery

88. Derrick Hodge- Fortuna: tent platform material delivery

89. Nevon Larson- Bordeaux: tent platform material delivery with an assist by Nathaniel

90. Jawini- Bordeaux: tent delivery only

91. Family #1/Tabernacle- Bordeaux: tent delivery

92. Sylvester Grant- Bordeaux: tent platform materials delivery

93. Jane Doe- Bordeaux: DDJ build an extension onto a Mennonite constructed tent platform to move tent and avoid the potential of falling rocks; their last work project

94. Denise Petersen- Bordeaux: tent platform materials delivery

95. Clyde Paris- Bordeaux: tent platform materials delivery

96. Timothy Turnbull- Bordeaux: tent platform materials delivery

97. Family #2/Tabernacle- Bordeaux: tent delivery

98. Family #3/Tabernacle- Bordeaux: tent delivery

99. William White- Bordeaux: tent platform materials delivery

100. Jean Chance- Bordeaux: tent delivery

101. The Tire Incident- Fortuna: what a miserable day! Mark and Scott wait for lumber that never shows and get a flat tire which takes several attempts to replace with a spare because the the jack isn't long enough to raise the truck high enough to get the flat off; the spare is finally put on only to find out that the other front tire is flat; The TJJ crew rescues us with a trip to the tire repair shop.

AmeriCorps- Hurricane Marilyn Recovery

U.S. Virgin Islands:

October 16, through November 19, 1995.



As you return to your "normal" lives, know that you have done a good thing by participating in the hurricane recovery process. You have touched many lives in the five weeks we have spent here. The projects we have completed are many and varied, just as the people we have helped. From the debris removal of a totally destroyed, and stench-ridden, trailer, to the cleaning of a small apartment of a "Ghandi-like" amputee, to the filing of Food Stamps certification forms, you have all shown brightly in this great team effort. You have all done the AmeriCorps name real good. Even as the future of the program is threatened, you have added another major victory to the AmeriCorps banner!

Thank you for all you have given.

"YOU CAN NEVER HAVE ENOUGH BUCKETS"

LIGHTS AND VIRTUES

Jackson Browne

Here's to lights and virtues

Here's to truths yet to be known

Knowledge to light the darkness

The search for things of your own

Here's to lights and virtues

Here's to reaching higher ground

A life of hope and purpose

Here's to strength yet to be found

Honor--though it goes unrecognized

and truth--though liars abound

The pleasure of love and friendship

The courage to be alone

PHONE NUMBERS YOU MAY NEED:

Donna Hines- (202) 690-0693 for questions about per diem, travel and stipend

Joel Berg- (202) 720-6350 for questions about the future of AmeriCorps

all questions should first be directed to your project sponsor.

“REMEMBER TO LIVE YOUR LIFE ONE DUMPSTER AT A TIME”
-DON'T SQUANDER THE SPACE YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN-

TO: Joel Berg
USDA AmeriCorps

CC: Vassilisa Johri
Corporation for National Service

Americorps Hurricane Marilyn Recovery Effort

Final Report 12/1/95

On the night of September 15th, Hurricane Marilyn struck the Virgin Islands. The greatest impact was on the island of St. Thomas. The following is taken from a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Hurricane Marilyn synopsis.

Impacts to the environment were evident. Trees and shrubs were defoliated, flooding was extensive and a mosquito problem was an imminent threat. Debris from damaged and destroyed housing, fallen trees, boats tossed onto Veterans Drive and downed utility poles and wires created a challenge. The assessment revealed that 70% of the homes on St. Thomas received roof and water damage and less than 10% were destroyed. There was no power. Poles and wires were down, generators were flooded or destroyed and transformers were out. Private cisterns were contaminated from debris and raw sewage which had been dumped on roofs. Water and sewage plants were not functional, leakage from sewer pipes entered bay areas and contaminated beaches.

The St. Thomas hospital had no power or generator capabilities and the medical supply warehouse was damaged with all supplies lost or unusable. Ground transportation was halted as roads were blocked with debris. A large number of private vehicles were damaged or destroyed and gasoline availability was extremely limited. Control towers were destroyed, runway lights were nonoperational and debris was scattered on runways bringing air transportation to a virtual halt.

Communication systems were heavily damaged with no long distance service, no radio or television and no satellite dishes. Seventeen schools sustained damage. Food warehouses were extensively damaged and food, water and ice were identified as immediate needs.

AmeriCorps Project Leaders arrived in St. Thomas on October 12th. Although the situation had stabilized, basic services on St. Thomas were still extremely limited or non-existent. Materials, supplies, lodging and transportation were scarce. Mosquitoes were still a problem. Six AmeriCorps Members arrived on St. Thomas on October 16th for immediate placement in the USDA emergency food distribution and food stamp program. The remaining 13 Members arriving on the 19th and 20th of October were either integrated into the food stamp program or assigned to the "Recovery Crew".

AmeriCorps Members were housed at the Bayside Inn which is primarily a fitness center with several guest rooms. Members slept 3 or 4 to small rooms or on the gym floor. A portable generator served as an alarm clock and provided electricity for cold showers and toast. The generator was also run for several hours each evening. With the help of FEMA and the Army Corps of Engineers, an Industrial generator providing hot water, refrigeration, and air conditioning, was secured three weeks into our stay. Commercial power was restored to the Bayside 3 days prior to our departure.

AmeriCorps Members worked six days a week in 90+ degree weather and high humidity. Heat exhaustion, protruding nails, knife-like edges on galvanized sheet metal roofing, steep and uncertain terrain, heavy twisted steel beams, scorpions, tarantulas, and dengue fever were all routine hazards. Despite the major environmental and logistical challenges, the entire AmeriCorps team displayed perseverance, stamina, flexibility, and tolerance working through obstacles which would have thwarted ordinary effort.

AmeriCorps Members assisted USDA personnel in emergency food distribution and were instrumental in processing applications and

total VI
\$13,728,953 *(#7 million + on St. Thomas)* *34,410*
disbursing \$11,332,811 dollars in emergency food stamps to 28,408 households (86,818 persons) in the Virgin Islands. AmeriCorps members also provided comfort to clients waiting in long lines and assisted with general administrative and organizational support.

Working from FEMA Community Relations referrals, AmeriCorps Recovery Crews cleared storm debris at 42 separate sites, primarily the homes and yards of elderly or disabled victims. This debris removal involved tearing apart entire roofs blown onto houses and into yards. Sorting through household debris and fermenting refrigerators, separating metal, wood, and rubbish for pick-up at the curb or loading directly into a dumptruck for removal to the landfill. AmeriCorps Members armed with mops, buckets, and disinfectant improved household living conditions and sanitation for 15 elderly or disabled storm victims. Members improved safe access to two separate homes by repairing bridge railings for an elderly widow injured in the storm at one site, removing and replacing a hazardous storm damaged staircase for a low income family at another. AmeriCorps responded to 3 emergency calls helping homeless or evicted persons secure and transport their belongings. AmeriCorps Members demonstrated the safe and proper use of gas stoves and lanterns to over 100 Virgin Islanders. (Stoves and lanterns were widely distributed early in the disaster and there were numerous reports of injuries, including the severe burning of a young child, due to improper use of these portable gas appliances.)

Working with FEMA's Volunteer Agency Coordinator, AmeriCorps supplied platform construction materials and tents to 19 families and built 25 platforms with tents, temporarily housing small farmers whose homes were completely destroyed in the storm. AmeriCorps Members also worked alongside volunteer organizations such as the Lutheran Disaster Service and the Mennonites. Last, but not least, AmeriCorps Members replanted a 260 year old palm tree uprooted by the storm.

We departed St. Thomas on the 19th of November with mixed feelings. We were aware that identified and unidentified needs continued in this

disaster and that many people would not have access to other assistance. However, we were proud of the work we had done and the many individuals and families we helped. Every member of the Virgin Islands Recovery Effort displayed the true ethic of service. Putting their own lives on hold, sacrificing personal comfort, and dedicating 100 percent of their effort to helping others in need. We made a difference in peoples lives.

As the result of the AmeriCorps Hurricane Marilyn Recovery Effort many valuable lessons were learned regarding the deployment of AmeriCorps Members in disaster situations. The success of future endeavors could be facilitated by a coordinated planning effort integrating the following issues into a national and regional AmeriCorps disaster response plan. First, a clear and formal relationship should be established with The Federal Emergency Management Agency. Second, AmeriCorps project coordinators should be on-site soon as possible after the disaster. Third, administrative and financial support procedures and responsibilities should be delegated and in place prior to deployment. Fourth, Member selection criteria should be developed and screening should occur with disaster coordinator involvement.

Despite numerous challenges, the Virgin Islands Recovery Effort clearly demonstrated AmeriCorps capability for service in a disaster environment. Disaster work connects AmeriCorps to the goals of national and community service in a very direct and meaningful way. On behalf of the entire AmeriCorps Hurricane Marilyn Recovery Team, we would like to thank you for this opportunity to serve. We look forward to being of assistance in the future.

Sincerely,



William Fleeger

Scott Burgwin

AmeriCorps V.I. Recovery Leaders

To: Harris Wofford
Through: Shirley Sagawa
From: Peg Rosenberry
Date: October 10, 1995
Re: New Disaster Response Initiatives

CORPORATION
FOR NATIONAL
SERVICE

We recently awarded a grant to the American Red Cross for a Rapid Response Corps that will be based in Los Angeles. The LA chapter of the Red Cross has recruited 42 AmeriCorps Members who will be trained in various aspects of emergency response and recovery, and deployed anywhere in the nation, or its territories, when a disaster occurs. The Red Cross had been unable to implement a "team-based" approach to shelter management and other volunteer disaster efforts because of the individual recruitment nature of their current disaster response network and the highly-skilled nature of their work. Skilled volunteers in mass care, family services, disaster communication, computer operations, and mental health are also difficult to find and in short supply. With this Rapid Response AmeriCorps program, the Red Cross will be able to send experienced and skilled teams of AmeriCorps Members to disaster sites who have already worked together and developed an efficient and effective approach to disaster management. The program will serve as a demonstration for expansion to other Red Cross chapters.

Forty-two AmeriCorps Members will work throughout the Los Angeles basin continuing recovery work from the 1994 earthquake, providing earthquake preparedness training to underserved populations and responding to disasters in California. The 42 Members are divided into six teams situated in 3 sectors of the Los Angeles area. Each team has at least one bilingual English/Spanish speaker. Following their training graduation on October 11, 1995, teams will be sent to assist in the Virgin Islands and the states affected by Hurricane Opal.

In addition, the Corporation recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). This new partnership allows FEMA to call upon Corporation programs -- Senior Corps, AmeriCorps, and Learn and Serve America -- to assist in disaster relief efforts. FEMA will reimburse Corporation programs for their costs incurred during disaster assistance. This reimbursement will vary, but it may cover stipends, tools, equipment, lodging and transportation.

1201 New York Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20525
Telephone 202-606-5000

Getting Things Done.
AmeriCorps, National Service
Learn and Serve America
National Senior Service Corps

At the time of a disaster, the most connected resources are at the state and local level. Therefore, we are developing an emergency response plan for all the Corporation programs that will be coordinated at the state level. The Corporation is creating a disaster response protocol that will describe the procedures to follow when FEMA requests disaster assistance. This procedure will also identify key points of contact throughout the process. Currently, the Corporation is working with the USDA to send an "All-Star" team comprised of veteran and second-year USDA AmeriCorps Members to assist FEMA in the Virgin Islands. The team is scheduled to leave on a five-week tour of duty on the 19th of October.

VIRGIN ISLANDS

USDA/CNS Disaster Relief

Trip Report

St. THOMAS

The island is beginning to have, on the surface, a semblance of normalcy. Most roads are now passable. VITEL claims that 40% of phone service has been restored (vigorously contested figures in the media). Each night, more lights are seen on the hillsides (both from generators and the utility service), and is moving from the downtown area out. The downtown is first because it is the economic center of an island 100% dependent on tourism and related services. The US Military is moving down to the docks for extraction. Houses which are livable have blue tarpaulins covering the roofs. And, the first cruise ship is scheduled for docking on October 26. Many of the larger employers are beginning to call back their workers for clean-up and preparation for a season they hope to salvage.

On a micro-scale, things are much different. While the US government and NGO agencies are taking up some of the employment slack, and FEMA is providing emergency food and supplies, most families are suffering greatly. Yet, since the hurricane there has been a spirit of optimism which is just now beginning to wane. This may be attributable to being in the 'waiting' period. The emergency is over and the day to day grind of returning to normalcy is seeming to take a long time. Also, the gap between those who have adequate resources and those who are at the mercy of the relief effort, is becoming more evident. The families who are trying to sleep in the dark and heat are becoming resentful of the drone of generators, air conditioners, and bright lights from their neighbors.

FEMA

Operating out of the Frenchman's Reef Hotel on St. Thomas, FEMA provides overall supervision and coordination of all aspects of the hurricane disaster relief -- directing the efforts of all US agencies and coordinating work with VOLAG's (volunteer agencies).

CNS

Based on a successful, though informal relationship in the past, CNS only recently took steps to formalize a relationship with FEMA through a Memorandum of Understanding. Operationalizing this relationship requires an issuance of a Mission Assignment Statement to CNS from FEMA. This was not done for St. Thomas because the effort was well underway when CNS and USDA undertook their joint project.

USDA

USDA's Mission Assignment in the Virgin Islands consists of feeding centers, food stamps, and emergency allocations for several agency programs (housing, water, etc.).

USDA AmeriCorps

Because the USDA AmeriCorps program works with many of the above programs, it was most efficient to tie in with their ongoing projects. When USDA projects were not available, FEMA's Community Relations staff provided assignments garnered from VOLAG and local organizations.

RECD

Of the 400 RHCDS loans on St. Thomas, at least 50% are extensively damaged; requiring \$25-50,000 to repair. The local staff have processed 210 applications for \$15,000 each. However, FEMA's emergency grants of \$15,000 have to be utilized first. They are still processing, so RHCDS is on hold until FEMA is finished. At this point RHCDS will begin to escrow additional money to complete the repairs. It is said that FEMA is searching for one major contractor to do all their rehabilitation work.

Vermont State RECD Office

The administrative and program staff of the Vermont State Office provided, and are continuing to provide, support and guidance for this effort. Protocols for administrative support have been established. All ongoing costs associated with the Virgin Islands AmeriCorps effort are being processed through this office.

AmeriCorps Members

Very capably led by Forest Service employees William Fleeger and Scott Burguin, the initial contingent of six AmeriCorps Members were quickly assigned to food stamp processing and food distribution, both on St. Thomas and St. Croix. Early reports were filled with praise for the Member's efforts. Especially notable were the Member's knowledge of the work, their bi-lingual and interpersonal skills, as well as their high level of enthusiasm and energy.

Lessons Learned

- The USDA AmeriCorps Office should continue to a significant role in disaster relief for four reasons:
 - ◆ It provides a avenue for our Department and agencies to establish a high-profile through which we can target our critical programs to those most in need;
 - ◆ It fosters inter-agency cooperation and integration;
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 - ◆ It provides a critical developmental opportunity to our AmeriCorps Members.

- The USDA AmeriCorps Office should maintain, over time, a core of staff knowledgeable in disaster relief to lead efforts of this type. It would be most effective if this staff came from projects similar to those required in emergency situations (food, construction, etc.). The USDA AmeriCorps office, despite limited staff, put this entire effort on the ground in a very short time.
- Recruitment of AmeriCorps Members for emergency relief should focus heavily on those with knowledge and experience in the programs required. Additional skills which enhance the Member's success are appropriate linguistic capacity and an ability to exist with minimum amenities.
- Whenever possible, USDA AmeriCorps efforts should be part of the USDA/FEMA Mission Assignment or, secondarily, through the CNS/FEMA memorandum. The current project was undertaken without Mission Assignment. At the lower operations levels, this did not present a problem. At an administrative level, without this Mission Assignment, FEMA is not able to provide support to the effort. With Mission Assignment, FEMA will not only provide critical support, it will also pay for the entire effort.

SUMMARY

Although less than a week old, the RECD commitment to provide substantive disaster relief to the Virgin Islands is paying dividends.

- Three USDA Mission areas are working cooperatively with little to no problems;
- All of the USDA agencies on the ground in St. Thomas have blended seamlessly, each contributing their human and logistical support to solve problems and meet critical needs;
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- USDA AmeriCorps is receiving recognition and high praise from island residents, USDA staff, and other cabinet departments for their work in providing food for needy island residents and home debris removal and basic habitation..

To: Joel Berg
USDA/AmeriCorps

CC: Vassi Johri
Corporation for National Service

Situation Report 11/11

Our work in Food Stamps phased down to three members this week. ESF #11 will be demobilized, and the Territorial Government is assuming the operation. The Food Stamp program was invaluable to us in this effort. We were not only able to provide a much need service to victims of this disaster, but also allowed us to offer members project diversity and a break from field work.

Community Relations projects are continuing with work beginning on St. John next week. We have been able to acquire material and supplies to accomplish higher skill level projects involving light carpentry, roof covering and building stairs. The placement of members with Community Relations field workers has been positive. Some members have enjoyed the opportunity to perform outreach work, and Community Relations field workers have been impressed with the motivation and skills of our members. Community Relations Fieldworkers have requested specific members to accompany them and be involved with special projects.

We have constructed 4 of 14 tent platforms for the Rastafarian community for VOLAG. Waddy Gonzales, VOLAG Coordinator, has given us a vehicle (an almost brand new GSA Ford F150 5 passenger pick-up), lumber, plywood, and other materials. VOLAG has been very helpful in providing support for this and other projects.

The Members travel monies were deposited in my account on monday. The bank did not have sufficient travelers checks on hand to handle that amount of disbursement. We had a certified check written to the American Express office and disbursed the funds through their office.

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

It was not the intention of our last situation report to lay blame on any individual for the lack of organizational forethought leading to the delay of members travel monies. We realize the tremendous effort Elizabeth Jones, Connie Rockwell, and Donna Hines put into making these monies flow as quickly as possible. We know that without their efforts we would still be broke. However, it was our intention to inform you of our predicament and express our feelings about being placed in this situation. We offer three specific suggestions to prevent this situation from happening in the future. First, dedicate one person to provide financial support to this type of operation. This person should be available throughout the duration of service and this responsibility should take priority over other work. Second, require all program sponsors to provide advance travel monies prior to sending Members on assignment. Four of our arriving members had their travel monies handled solely by program sponsors, five others received some amount of travel advance prior to departing. Third, formalize AmeriCorps relationship to FEMA allowing access to imprest and procurement funds already in place.

We have had numerous inquiries about continued AmeriCorps presence in the Virgin Islands. We would appreciate any information you could provide us regarding planned or ongoing AmeriCorps programs on the islands.

We would like to request a listing of Members travel arrangements as soon as possible. We will continue with project work through Friday. Members will have Friday afternoon, Saturday, and Sunday Morning off. We will prepare a document recounting major issues with recommendations for future operations. We look forward to Joel's visit, especially if he brings money.

Sincerely,


William Fleeger


Scott Burgwin

AmeriCorps V.I. Recovery Leaders

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

VIRGIN ISLANDS

USDA/CNS Disaster Relief

Trip Report

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To: Joel Berg
USDA/AmeriCorps

CC: Vassi Johri
Corporation for National Service

AmeriCorps V.I. Recovery Effort

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

Situation Report 10/28/95

The commitment of nine members to the USDA Food Stamp program continues with only minor changes. As the major rush passed this week, only four members are required now on Saturday's. The remaining five members were utilized for FEMA projects. AmeriCorps members assisted in setting up and staffing certification sites, dispersal of food stamps and providing comfort and direction to clients waiting in line. USDA personnel continue to be very helpful to our over-all effort and express their appreciation for the quality and quantity of work performed by our members.

We have completed 19 of 25 projects referred by FEMA Community Relations field workers. These projects have primarily involved cleaning debris from what remains of the homes and yards of elderly or disabled individuals. We have also helped other persons and families without resources to perform this type of work. This is tremendously hard, and dangerous work. As usual, AmeriCorps members have performed admirably in the field under very stressful conditions.

The balance struck between the Food Stamps program and FEMA projects has worked out well. Because of the heat and the dangerous nature of the field work, we have set up a rotation schedule so that three members from the Recovery Crew rotate on to

the Food Stamp Crew every third day. This rotation schedule allows members a much needed break from the field as well as a little project diversity. We have also been completing projects nearly as fast as FEMA can refer them. We would not be able to keep all 19 members busy relying solely on FEMA referrals. The projects FEMA has been referring to us have been good. Dorothy Andrade has been an excellent project contact. We have still had trouble convincing her supervisors that it is alright to offer minimal support for projects. It felt like a major victory when we convinced Tom Sciandra, Community Relations Coordinator, to let us use his GSA pick-up (which mostly remains parked all day at the DFO) for a debris removal project. But as far as purchasing small amounts of lumber or nails, forget it. The frustrating thing about this is that right next door in VOLAG they are giving these things away to other volunteer agencies. Waddy Gonzales, VOLAG coordinator has been very interested in working with us and is trying to arrange to give us a vehicle and materials to do tent erection projects (his term). Community Relations is aware of this, and I think this may be a source of tension between departments.

Another discouraging situation occurred on Thursday. Last week, Dorothy refer us to the Nature Conservancy, an approved VOLAG group as a possible source for tools, as we were unable to request them through FEMA. The Nature Conservancy has two native AmeriCorps members working on St. Croix renovating a historic sugar plantation. I spoke with Carol Mayes, Nature Conservancy Coordinator and she offered to allow us to use what limited tools they might have. I offered, in return, that we might be able to send several of our members over for one or two days to work with their AmeriCorps members. We both agreed that this would be a positive connection for both our efforts. We made the mistake of telling Dorothy and she checked with her supervisors, Al Hahn and Tom Sciandra, to see if it would be alright. She returned saying that their opinion was that this would seriously compromise our relationship with FEMA. Because the Nature Conservancy is a private-non-profit and this work was pre-disaster we could expect

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

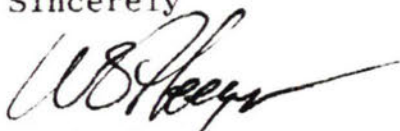
big trouble if we went ahead with this plan. This unneighborly attitude reenforces our experience with FEMA Community Relations. Where I come from, it is downright rude not to return help offered by your neighbors and friends. We experienced the same attitude when we arrived. We could help Community Relations by giving them the ability to respond to situations of need in the field, however they would not assist us in anyway.

We have received some very good publicity of our work. Yvette Bocz was interviewed on a local radio station about her work in the Food Stamp program. We were featured on the front page of the Virgin Islands Daily News (copy enclosed). There will also be an article on our work in the next edition of the Recovery Times.

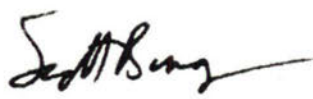
We have had four members injured in the field. Tim Craddock received a laceration on his arm requiring three stitches. Richard Torres stepped on a nail. Jimmy Louvanos smashed his shin with a three pound maul. I shut John Glenn's fingers in the van door. All of those injured are filling out a Federal CA-1 form. These incidents are discouraging. Scott and I have stressed safety from the beginning. We continue to make it the highest priority in the field. We will continue to work with the members and ourselves to look out for each other and perform our work as safely as possible. The generator should be installed at the Bayside tomorrow. I will try to establish a bank account so that the member's travel allowances can be transferred here as soon as possible. Scott and I are floating them until then.

Please send more money,

Sincerely



Bill Fleeger



Scott Burgwin

AmeriCorps V.I. Recovery Leaders

PHOTOCOPY
PRESERVATION

From: 1 National Service
To: jberg
Date: 10/30/95 5:47pm
Subject: VI trip, etc

First, I just spoke with Grace Sheffey (FCS' Disaster Coordinator), who hears that our folks are doing GREAT!. This is from the Regional Disaster Coordinator (Pat Cumiskey), who has just come back from a week down there. Grace is going to get a memo from Pat attesting to the good work the anti-hunger team is doing.

Second, I talked with Bill F. about your trip down there. He's happy for you to come, and we agreed that the best time would be for you to travel down on the 12th and return on the 14th. You should be able to stay at the same place the Members are staying (but in your own room!); if the travel times are still the same, you'll get there a little after 2:00 p.m. on Sunday and can stay at least half a day on Tuesday. Does this work for you? Also, does the money come out of your regular AmeriCorps account, or (if we can afford it) out of the RECD VI fund?

AmeriCorps- Virgin Island/ Hurricane Marilyn Recovery

Welcome to the U.S. Virgin Islands and the hurricane recovery effort! You are on the island of St. Thomas, which was the hardest hit of the three main islands. The other islands are St. John and St. Croix. You may get the opportunity to work on or visit these islands during your 5 week stay.

You are entering an area and a project that will challenge you as an individual and us as an organization. Our role in the larger recovery effort is evolving, therefore flexibility, as well as hard work will help to keep us focused. Our primary goal is to help the islands along in the recovery process.

This undoubtedly will be an experience that we will all remember for the rest of our lives. We intend to be a shining example of "getting things done" as we represent not only ourselves, but the larger AmeriCorps program across the United States.

The following are some details about our stay here that will assist you in getting settled in and the right mind frame to survive. More will come later in person and as we all learn about the environment we find ourselves in.

SAFETY

As always this number one. The normal safety procedures will be followed for work in the field. While doing physical labor such as debris clean-up, light carpentry, or warehouse work we will wear hardhat, gloves, long pants and work boots. While in transit by motor vehicle we will wear seat belts. Riding in the back of a pick-up is a no-no. Letting fellow team members know where we are going is a must. The buddy system will be in effect.

There are safety concerns that are related more specifically to being on St. Thomas. The traffic situation here demands that you pay attention if you are driving or working near a roadway. The first obvious thing is that you drive on the left. "hug the left" is the battle cry of the new-to-the-islands driver. The roads are narrow and steep in places, and there are many traffic back-ups. This is not a place to space-out while driving.

Personal safety is a concern in some areas of the island at night. These will be pointed out as the need arises. Suffice to say that like back home this island has its rough places; the disaster has only heightened the problems. The main concern is that you keep your possessions secure at all times.

There are mosquitos here. One type is your regular run-of-the-mill mosquito that hangs-out at dusk and dawn and generally may just harrass you at night; the other is a special one that likes dawn and daytime primarily, and can carry with it a virus that causes dengue fever. Dengue fever is a severe flu-like experience. More information is attached. Insect repellent at all times is the rule. One with DEET in it is recommended, although DEET is a "can be hazardous to your health" ingredient.

THE STAFF

Bill Fleeger and Scott Burgwin are the project leaders. We work as a team in planning this adventure, and will continue to do so with

divided responsibilities as the project develops. Concerns, questions and suggestions can be brought to either. For official purposes Bill is designated as the Project Leader, mainly because he is a hell of a guy. Bill is from the Rogue River National Forest in Oregon where he is the AmeriCorps Project Manager. Scott is from the Olympic National Forest in Washington state where he is the Trails and Wilderness Coordinator for his Ranger District, and is the Forest's AmeriCorps Project Coordinator. Scott is obviously a collector of titles so if you have any to suggest please feel free.

WHERE WE ARE STAYING

We are staged at: Bayside Inn
7140 Bolongo Bay
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00802

Phones are iffy at present. There is a cell phone at the Inn; the number is: 1-809-690-4859. We are still working on a phones that can be used to phone home. Did you bring a calling card?

WATER

This is a safety and a conservation issue. We need to be drinking plenty of water everyday, and we need to remind each other to drink regularly. Do not wait until you get thirsty. The heat will bite you with, if you are lucky, heat exhaustion with its alternating nausea and intestinal cramps, dizziness, and general bad mood. Don't mess with this!

At the Inn the water is not drinkable at present. There is also a conservation concern because water comes from sisterns that collect rainwater off of roofs, most of which are damaged on the island. The owners of the Inn will explain for us the conservation measures we will need to be taking.

FOOD

We are arranging for you to receive \$50/day for food and other personal items. The Inn will provide breakfast, bag lunch, and dinner, which will have a price for you to pay. There are other food options around that you may choose to use. We will make a daily list of those eating at the Inn to aid the cook in planning. The \$50 "per diem" will be issued weekly, at least this is the current plan. If you have special dietary needs please let yourself be heard.

Some of you have received per diem already and this will need to be accounted for so that duplication does not happen.

LAUNDRY

There are some possibilities, none too great at this point, but we are working on it. If we are able to obtain a generator for the Inn then laundry can be done there for a fee.

WORK SCHEDULE

Our basic daily schedule is:

- 0630 breakfast
- 0700 briefing on days work
- 0730 leave for worksites
- 1730 end work- return "home"
- 1800ish debrief as teams come in
- 1900 dinner
- 2000 group meeting when needed

schedules will vary according to project and many other factors that have not even been dreamed of yet.

We expect to have one day off each week, usually Sunday. This may vary according to project needs.

THE WORK

Four or five of our team will be committed to aiding USDA Food and Consumer Services staff on food stamp and food distribution. This effort may last the entire duration of our mission. The remaining members will likely work on a variety of projects with primary emphasis on debris clearing and light carpentry repairs on houses. Many adventures await us.

LOCAL CULTURE

More information will come verbally, and from other sources, but a beginning point for survival here has to do with how we greet local people, or "islanders". The traditional greeting is- "good morning- good afternoon- good evening- good night", depending on the time of day. Rushing right to business without the greeting a sincere "how are you" can be interpreted as rude. Look people in the eye when you talk, and listen when they talk. Almost everyone speaks English, although a local English dialect may be hard to understand at first.

WILDLIFE

Other than mosquitos, some wildlife of interest are: lizards, a flying cockroach, iguanas (big lizards with striped tails that are herbivores, so unless your name is Herb, they are harmless, but impressive), mongooses, or is it mongeese, many other fine specimens yet to be discovered by this yanqui. THERE ARE NO POISONOUS SNAKES!!

THE BEACHES

Have all been cleared for swimming.

and much more.....

USDA AmeriCorps Virgin Islands Disaster Relief Team

Jason Hansen-WA
Abby Gage-SC
Tim Craddock-WV
Dan Noonan-OR
Dina Koutoupes-NH
Vontese Crawford-CA
Will Glen-CA
Richard Torres-CA
Alex Gonzalez-WI
Mark Van Ravensway-SD
Ryan Webster-KS
Jimmy Luvanos-CA
Charlet Meredith-MS
Margaret Peters-AR
John Glenn-WA
Ana Gomez-NM
Sammy Bausky-IL
~~Amy Omerest-OR~~
Yvette Boez-CA

Dengue Fever: Update Information for Response Personnel

Introduction:

Dengue fever is common throughout the tropics, and is present every year in the Virgin Islands. This fact sheet will provide you with important health and safety information while you are responding to the aftermath of Hurricane Marilyn.

Cause:

Dengue fever is caused by a virus transmitted by the mosquito *Aedes aegypti*. The mosquito gets infected by biting a person who is sick with dengue. After about 10 days the infected mosquito can pass the virus to a susceptible person when it feeds. Several other species of mosquito are common in the Virgin Islands but none can transmit dengue.

Aedes aegypti is a domestic species, closely associated with human habitation. It breeds in water in man-made containers, never in ponds or swamps. It is day-active, mainly biting in the afternoon and early morning. The other common mosquitoes in the Virgin Islands bite at dawn and dusk, or at night.

Symptoms of dengue:

Dengue usually begins with a sudden fever, followed by severe headache, joint and muscle pains. A characteristic rash may appear after a few days. Most patients recover within a week to ten days, but on rare occasions, the illness may be more severe, with spontaneous bleeding, shock and even death.

There is no vaccine for dengue. Patients should seek medical care. Fever should be controlled with acetaminophen ('Tylenol') but NOT WITH ASPIRIN, as this may increase the risk of bleeding. Seek medical care/advice if fever or other symptoms appear. Public Health Service is providing medical care at various sites including the DFO. If symptoms appear after you return home, inform your medical care provider of your travel to an endemic dengue area. Information may be obtained from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Division of Vector Borne Infectious Disease Dengue Branch in San Juan, Puerto Rico. The telephone number is (809) 766-5181.

Prevention:

Space spraying (fogging) from vehicles or aircraft is not effective against *Aedes aegypti*. The mosquito is best controlled by eliminating its breeding receptacles or treating them with insecticide.

Personal protection measures:

- Use insect repellent containing DEET (be sure to read the instructions);
- Keep mosquitoes out of living/sleeping quarters;
- Wear long pants and long-sleeved shirts;
- Eliminate all potential breeding receptacles in the area of your working/living area.

U. S. Public Health Service, Centers for Disease Control, San Juan Laboratories

September 27, 1995

October 23, 1995

To: Vassi Johri, Steve Selby

From: Joel Berg JB

8 pages, including this cover

Attached is the latest report from the Virgin Islands. As you will read, Bill is being a real good trooper not complaining too loudly about having to work without the official tasking from FEMA.

However, please note their statement: "Expending our limited funds to duplicate resources already available to FEMA seriously jeopardizes our ability to maintain a five week mission especially if that mission involves purchasing truck loads of lumber. Self sufficiency becomes a euphemism for inefficiency." (My emphasis.)

Can we try another attempt to get an official tasking from FEMA?

It seems nuts for us to use our scarce funds to purchase stuff they already have!



Federal Emergency Management Agency
Disaster Field Office
St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands

Tel: 1-804-693-0634

Fax: 1-804-693-0901

Fax Transmission

To: <i>Noel Berg</i>	Fax Number: <i>202-720-4614</i>
Department: <i>USDA/AMRICORPS</i>	Telephone Number: <i>202-696-0693</i>
From: <i>Bill FLEEGER ESF #11</i>	Fax Number: <i>809-693-0901</i>
<i>NO OF PAGES: 7</i>	Telephone Number: <i>809-693-0531</i>

Message: *Situation Report 10/22/95-*

Sent by: _____ Date: _____ Time: _____ AM/PM

To: Joel Berg

USDA/AmeriCorps

CC: Vassi Johri

Corporation for National Service

AmeriCorps Situation Report 10/22/95

*A
summary*

All members have arrived and have been assigned to projects. We have committed nine members, to the USDA Food Stamp program and ten members to FEMA Community Relations projects. Work in the Food Stamp effort consists of transferring certification information to computer, providing comfort to clients waiting in long lines, and general administrative and organizational support. The Food Distribution program is being phased out and Food Stamps will be made available to disaster victims of St. Thomas on Wendsday. It is anticipated that there will be over \$500,000 dollars worth of Food stamps distributed by Friday. This has been an enormous effort and AmeriCorps members have provided invaluable assistance keeping this program organized and proceeding as smoothly as possible. The USDA Food Stamp sponsors have been very impressed with the quality and quantity of the work our members have performed. They have also been very helpful to our overall effort

by allowing us to utilize space, phones, and computers at the already crowded ESF #11 desk in the DFO and assisting us with transporting members to and from work.

We are beginning to work the kinks out of a very problematic relationship with FEMA. When Scott and I arrived there was a lot of confusion about our administrative relationship to FEMA, the types of work would we be able to perform and logistically support, and the process for Community Relations workers to refer projects to AmeriCorps. Initially, Barbara Kambouris, Deputy Director of Community Relations, was under the impression that our entire team would be serving at discretion of her department. This caused immediate conflict with Jaime Riveria, our USDA contact, and led to a situation now referred to as the "dueling memo incident." This situation was resolved in a meeting with Barbara, Jaime, representatives from VOLAG, the Red Cross, and myself. At this meeting it was agreed that five members with Food Stamp training would be committed to the USDA, the remaining members would work on FEMA project referrals and that our work would not duplicate efforts of the Red Cross or other volunteer agencies. This situation resolved, Scott and I began to discover the types of work that would be referred to us through FEMA. Community Relations workers identified, as priority, the need to install tarp on roofs of elderly and handicapped victims whose home lacked sufficient structure for the Army Corps of Engineers to attach a protective covering. Community Relations Workers also identified the need for cistern repair, debris removal, and other health, safety and

sanitation issues. Scott and I began to work through the logistical requirements of addressing the priority need of roof repair. This would require lumber, plywood, ladders, carpentry tools, nails, vehicles to transport materials, and crews, radios to maintain communication, and most importantly, water to prevent our members from dropping like flies in the heat. Scott and I began to work on methods to acquire these materials and supplies assuming that we might be able to utilize resources already available to FEMA. At the same time, I submitted a request through FEMA Operations for an industrial generator for the Bayside Inn where our members would be staying. Included in this request was an accounting of rate reductions the Bayside Inn would offer in return for a generator. (As background, most of the Island is without power and FEMA offers an agreement to provide generators to private businesses in exchange for services or reduced rates returned to the Federal government.) This request was denied and the paperwork returned to FEMA Community Relations. Barbara Kambouris misinterpreted this request as an attempt to have FEMA pay for the cost of AmeriCorps lodging. It was this incident which brought the "self-sufficiency" issue to the forefront. In a meeting with Barbara, Dorothy Andrade (our project contact for FEMA), and myself, Barbara explained to me that legally, FEMA could not incur any costs or provide support associated with our AmeriCorps Mission. I pointed out that the request was for a generator and not for reimbursement for lodging. At this point Barbara read the paperwork and understood the nature of the request. She further explained that because we had come down late in the disaster and on

our own volition that legally FEMA could not offer us any support with vehicles, equipment, or supplies even if those resources were available to other agencies and organizations associated with this effort.

The major question raised by this explanation of our connection to FEMA is; If we are here independently, how was it assumed that we would serve at the direction of Community Relations? Operating independently, it would be more appropriate for us to connect to FEMA through VOLAG. VOLAG has provided vehicle and radio support to Christian organizations in this disaster. Expending our limited funds to duplicate resources already available to FEMA seriously jeopardizes our ability to maintain a five week mission especially if that mission involves purchasing truck loads of lumber. Self sufficiency becomes a euphemism for inefficiency.

This is the reality of the situation and Scott and I have been busy making the most of it. We have been working with our project contact in FEMA and have chosen to focus on debris clean-up. This work requires a lot of person power, minimal expenditures for materials, and there is a lot of it to do. Abby Gage, an AmeriCorps member from South Carolina is working with Scott and I to coordinate projects, set crew and work schedules, and solve our logistical problems. She has been an excellent addition to our team. Abby has also been leading one of our "recovery crews." After some initial bumps in the project referral process (another long FEMA story) we are confident that we will not have a problem

keeping people busy. We are also making contact with other organizations involved in the relief effort. On Monday we will have a crew helping the Mennonites build temporary housing for the Rastafarian community. Another crew will be removing a roof that was blown into an elderly woman's back yard. We have found allies within FEMA who have been willing to help us solve some of our logistical and support issues. We have rented a jeep for Scott and I to get around the Island and because the road system here is so crazy and there are no street signs left from the storm, we have hired a driver with a van who knows the island to transport crews to the work site. This has avoided a lot of down time associated with trying to find addresses and project locations.

We are staying at the Bayside Inn. Members are sleeping 3 or 4 to a room. There is no power but portable generators provide light and cold water for showers in the morning and evening. Our hosts, Brad and Carol, have been very helpful and have been very enthusiastic about having AmeriCorps stay with them. They provide excellent meals with a vegetarian option and even shop for items for our members during the day. I had a short talk with the FCO and resubmitted the request for a generator explaining that AmeriCorps members were not on the same per diem schedule as other Federal employees and that the Bayside was the only place we could afford to stay. This time the request was approved. We may have refrigeration, hot water, and air conditioning by mid-week.

The majority of the members did not receive travel advances. This

has been a major problem. I have been advancing some members money out of my own pocket. Early last week, Scott and I requested an additional 2,000 dollars each on our travel allowance so we could buy tools and supplies and keep the members in money until their paper work was processed. We have not yet received those funds. I hope they will be in the Fed-X package on Monday. I strongly recommend that ~~in~~ the future the financial arraignments for this kind of operation be worked out in advance. Having to work through these procurement and per-diem issues has been extremely frustrating and inconvenient.

We will be working 6 days a week. we gave everyone today off even though some members just arrived on friday. The average work day for the recovery crews will be 0730-1730 commute included. The Food stamp crews may be working somewhat longer days, but they have air-conditioning.

Please send money.

Sincerely,



William Fleeger

AmeriCorps V.I. Recovery Project Director

* Number of members to USDA was raised to nine because of initial problems with work referred by FEMA. I anticipate returning to five after project flow improves



DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20250

INFORMATIONAL MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNDER SECRETARY

From: Earl Taylor, II *ET*
Bonnie Berry *BB*

Subject: USDA AmeriCorps Virgin Island Disaster Relief Update

Below is a summary of expenditures to date for the USDA AmeriCorps Disaster Relief project.

EXPENSES

	<u>as of 10/20/95</u>	<u>Item Total</u>
Roundtrip Airfare to the Virgin Islands		\$21,570.90
Lodging for Orientation		\$645.05
Lodging in the Virgin Islands		\$14,160.00
Food Expenses for Staff and Members		\$8,600.00
Stipend for Non-Renewal Members		\$9,000.00
Tools		\$0.00
On-Ground Transportation		\$5,596.00
Miscellaneous Supplies		\$550.00
Expense for Alternate Members		\$0.00
Grand Total		\$60,121.95

1

Our budget was formed based on the best estimates available at the beginning of the project. All efforts are being made to insure the project cost are adequately funded.

BUDGET

Item Total

Airfare	\$18,800.00
Lodging for Orientation	\$4,524.00
Lodging in the Virgin Islands	\$2,700.00
Food Expenses for Staff and Members	\$45,220.00
Stipend for Non-Renewal Members	\$17,100.00
Tools	\$1,000.00
On-Ground Transportation	\$5,000.00
Miscellaneous Supplies	\$3,000.00
Expense for Alternate Members	\$8,250.00
Grand Total*	\$105,594.00

* Please note funds supplied by Rural Housing and Community Development Service total \$100,000

We are attempting to obtain additional support from the Corporation for National Service to pay for the members' airfare. Also, attached is an informational overview of the project. The preliminary reports from our team indicate their work will make a real difference to the victims of Hurricane Marilyn. You will be receiving a more detailed project update in the near future..

cc: Maureen Kennedy, Administrator, RHCDS

