

Hurricane Harvey relief

In the US Air Mobility Command (AMC) directed allocation of its airlift, aeromedical evacuation and contingency response assets to Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Hurricane Harvey relief efforts, as requested by US Northern Command (USNORTHCOM) on 30 August.

AMC C-17, C-130, C-5 and KC-10 aircraft from continental US AMC wings, elements of the 621st Contingency Response Wing at Joint Base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst and various support personnel are deploying to affected areas of Texas to support ongoing FEMA- and USNORTHCOM-led efforts to provide relief to residents affected by the recent storm.

In the words of General Carlton D Everhart II, AMC commander: *‘As we support our joint warfighters and allies across the globe, we remain ready when called to assist in life-saving efforts for Americans and those in need following any natural disaster or other crisis. We are proud to serve alongside our federal, state and local partners to assist our fellow citizens.’*

Command, control and coordination of humanitarian airlift efforts for victims of hurricanes is provided by the 618th Tanker Airlift Control Center at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois. The 618th TACC coordinates an average of 500 airlift and air refuelling missions each day, and can seamlessly redirect aircraft to support requirements for contingency or humanitarian relief operations.

In the aftermath of 2016’s Hurricane Matthew, AMC and the TACC coordinated 38 missions and 110 sorties for 30 mobility aircraft, which evacuated 2,160 passengers and delivered 588 short-tons of cargo.

Picture captions

Hurricane 1

US Air Force Personnel from the 502nd Logistics Readiness Squadron load supplies and equipment on a C-5 as part of Total Force efforts on 30 August, 2017 at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, Texas.

Approximately 70 Airmen from Air Education and Training Command departed JBSA-Lackland Kelly Field Annex on 30 August in support of Hurricane Harvey relief efforts.

US Air Force photo by Ismael Ortega, USAF©.

Hurricane 2

At Joint Base, Charleston South Carolina Senior Airman Justin Hampton, 16th Airlift Squadron loadmaster, hangs the state flag of Texas prior to takeoff of a disaster relief mission on 29 August.

Hampton, a Texas native, represents one of three airlift squadrons that were able to depart within three hours of tasking. All of this was achieved while supporting daily combat sustainment missions to the US Central Command theater of operations.

US Air Force photo by Senior Airman Thomas T Charlton. USAF ©.