



First in Deed



First U.S. Army

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First Army aids in relief from Hurricane Floyd



First U.S. Army Fights Hurricane Floyd in Disaster Relief Efforts

Fort Gillem, Ga. . . Floyd, the biggest hurricane of the season, and one of the largest ever to threaten the east coast of the United States, set in motion the Army's plans for supporting disaster relief efforts.

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First Army poet turns songwriter and record producer

Photo by MSG Thomas Bond

Department of the Army civilian, Mr. John Ford, recently took a trip to Greenville, Kentucky and the Whitehorse Recording Studio, where with help and collaboration from Staff Sgt. Laura Bradley and Master Sgt. Ray West of the 214th Army Ground Forces Band, he recorded 10 songs for an upcoming release.

Ford is the assistant Protocol Officer for First U.S. Army. As a DA civilian, he is an intricate part of the First U.S. Army team and works in step with the "green suiters".

Ford has been writing for over 10 years and his songs actually started as poems. "The poetry started to turn into songs in my head," said Ford. To convey these songs to Bradley and West, Ford said, "I played a beat on my leg to them and we ran with it."

Whereas Ford traces his musical roots to rock and roll and country genres, the musical palette of West and Bradley are more reflective of Rhythm and Blues. Their varied musical background caused a couple of the songs to take on a completely different tone than what he had envisioned, "But that makes it fun," said Ford.

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Press Officers from Uzbekistan Visit First Army

By MSG Thomas Bond

Ft. Gillem, Ga...Far from their home in central Asia, five press officers from Uzbekistan, a former Soviet republic, recently visited the United States to learn about the U.S. military and, in particular, how it interacts with the media during disaster relief operations. One of their stops took them to First U.S. Army's Emergency Operation Center (EOC) at Ft. Gillem, Ga.

Leading the delegation on their ten-day tour was Malik M. Kadirov, Press Secretary to the Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan. Kadirov, who had visited the United States years ago when he was younger, was impressed with what he learned on this visit.



Photo by Karen Bradshaw

Malik M KADIROV

Press-Secretary of the Prime-minister of the
Republic of Uzbekistan

"I now have a better understanding of democracy and human rights in the United States. My greatest impression came when we visited the Roosevelt Memorial in Washington, D.C. There was written for everyone to see four freedoms...*freedom from want... freedom from fear of*

war... freedom to worship God in his own way and freedom of speech and expression. I was very impressed," he continued, "We also realize how important our relationships are to understanding each other and learning. We are very grateful to the United States Information Agency (USIA) for bringing us here."

The USIA, a division of the U.S. State Department, sponsored the visit along with the Georgia Council for International Visitors.

Peter Pearse, a Forces Command public affairs staff officer, was responsible for coordination of the visit. "As Uzbekistan is emerging from a state run information system to an open society, public affairs is particularly important in the framework of their new society. They are leaning forward toward an open information system. What they need now are the tools," said Pearse.

The group was met by Col. Richard Durden, First U.S. Army's Deputy Chief of Staff for Operations (DCSOPS), who is responsible for coordination of disaster relief in First U.S. Army's geographic area of responsibility. This area covers 27 states and 3 territories east of the Mississippi River and the Caribbean region. They toured First U.S. Army's emergency operations center, receiving briefings on Department of Defense (DoD) disaster relief and public affairs procedures. "The focus on disaster relief is the same around the world... saving lives and providing immediate relief to victims. They have the exact same focus as we do for disaster relief," said Kelly Shields, Chief of the Plans and Regional Preparedness Division.

Lt. Col. Guy Shields, Third U.S. Army Public Affairs Officer, and Lt. Col. Ken Baldowski, Georgia Army National Guard Public Affairs Officer, were on hand to discuss the challenges of dealing with the press during military operations and state disasters.

Kadirov recounted that, like many newly independent countries in his region, Uzbekistan has made important strides toward an open and democratic society. A former economics professor, Kadirov said, "After the Soviet

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Uzbeki press

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coup in 1991 when everything changed, I started a business. I remember that my wife and I were very afraid and she told me that we should be prepared to be arrested.

“When I was growing up I remember participating in demonstrations and parades, filled with pictures of Lenin. Everyone was afraid of the government. Now our children are free, they have no fear. My daughter is 8 years old and she doesn’t even know who Lenin is,” said Kadirov proudly.

Just passing through



Photo by MSG Thomas Bond

Command Sergeant Major Ronald W. Bedford passed First Army Headquarters recently on his way to Washington D.C. during a 1500-mile quest for a memorial to honor WW II vets. “This is all about honoring heroes,” said Bedford. Sponsored by the Non-Commissioned Officers Assn., Bedford hopes to raise awareness of the efforts to build a memorial on the mall in Washington, DC.

Ford writes all the lyrics on his albums and sings a good portion of the vocals with help from Bradley. West plays keyboards and does musical effects which enhances the “sound” for which Ford is looking. The trio of Ford, West and Bradley has been together since the beginning of August. Ford has come up with a rather catchy name for his group, which he calls “West Bradford Way.” Ford wanted something to recognize all three members and this choice incorporates all three names as the name of a street.

“We are all on the same street, on the way to heaven,” said Ford. Their compilation of works titled “Heavens Voice” aren’t all typical gospel renditions, rather a mix of sounds. “It doesn’t matter what you play, it’s what you say,” said Ford. “There is even a disco type song,” he said with a hand gesture.

Bradley and West are both very excited about the upcoming release. “I have always wanted to do a Christian album. The songs that John wrote are so beautiful and they mean so much,” said Bradley. She hopes that her music can reach out to young people as she sees many troubled youth in today’s world.

Mr. Ford has four CD titles in the works that he is anxious to release. His first CD, titled “Lift me up,” contains lyrics based on his feelings about humans humbling themselves and shelving their pride and selfishness. For his next CD Ford has in mind a collection of songs that tell stories of forgiveness. He plans to record these songs with a rock and roll feel. The fourth CD Ford wishes to do is a set of easy listening love songs that anyone can relate to.

When asked what he expects to accomplish after spending so many hours in the studio, Ford replied, “I have no expectations, whatever happens, happens.” He further elaborated that his mission had already been fulfilled when he gave a tape to a disabled friend and the music lifted his friend’s spirits.

From the CG's Desk



Welcome to the inaugural edition of "First In Deed," First Army's newsletter. The purpose of this publication is to inform all of the soldiers, civilians, families, and friends of on going events within the First Army

area. This is your way to keep in touch with and inform them of your activities. Please feel free to contact the Public Affairs Office with any newsworthy articles that you feel may be of interest. We also want to cater this letter to your needs, so if you have suggestions or ideas to improve this newsletter, please contact the First U.S. Army Public Affairs Office (DSN) 797-7422 or (Commercial) (404) 362-7422.

Flood

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First U.S. Army provided Defense Coordinating Officers (DCOs) for Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia and New York to support the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in the aftermath of the storm.

First U.S. Army's Regional Preparedness Liaison Officers (REPLOs) reported to FEMA Regional Operations Centers in Atlanta, New York and Philadelphia. REPLOs are highly skilled reservists from the Army, Navy and Air Force specifically trained to identify military assets that may meet FEMA's requirements. They provide expert advice and serve as a vital link between the military and FEMA.

Eastern North Carolina saw some of the worst damage caused by rising floodwaters. The Defense Coordinating Element (DCE) for North Carolina immediately went into action to set up a rescue air operations center at Pope Air Force Base. DoD aircraft from the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, and Air Force, as well as those from the Coast Guard, flew 358 missions and safely evacuated 2,336 patients and stranded civilians. Military pilots flew Search and Rescue

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First U.S. Army welcomes newest Civilian Aide



Photo by MSG Thomas Bond

First U.S. Army welcomed Mr. Richard F. Allen, the new Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army (CASA), for Alabama at an investiture ceremony held on September 7th. The investiture was held in downtown Montgomery and hosted by Lt. Gen. John M. Riggs, First U.S Army Commander, on behalf of Secretary of the Army Louis Caldera.

Civilian Aides, or CASAs, advise the Secretary of the Army, the Army Chief of Staff, and army commanders where they live. They help interpret the Army's missions and objectives to the civilian community and provide feedback to the Secretary of the Army and local commanders regarding the public's perception of the Army. CASAs also represent the Secretary of the Army at public events, where each acts as the Secretary's personal representative and official Army spokesperson. "These volunteers demonstrate again and again they are some of the most valuable members of the Army team. They provide invaluable service to our nation and our Army," said Lt. Gen. John M. Riggs.

Allen presently serves as the Chief Deputy Attorney General for Alabama and is an experienced attorney. Allen formerly served as chief legislative assistant to former U.S. Senator Howell Heflin. He spent seven years on Active Duty in the Army as a commissioned officer, with five years in the Ordinance Corps and two in Field Artillery.

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Photo by MSG Thomas Bond

Lt. Gen. Riggs helps to kick off the Combined Federal Campaign in the foyer of the First U.S. Army Headquarters with free popcorn and raffle of door prizes. First U.S. Army has a goal of 17,000 dollars, of which, over 2400 organizations can be selected to donate to.

Alabama CASA

His twenty-three years as an Army Reservist add to his credentials as a CASA. Allen is greatly involved in his community and serves as Chairman of the Alabama Bar Association Task Force on Disaster Relief; President of the Montgomery Chapter of the Reserve Officers Association; Vice President and member of the Board of Directors for the Montgomery Chapter of the Association of the United States Army.

Attending the breakfast ceremony were the U.S. Senator for Alabama, Jeff Sessions; Alabama Governor Don Siegelman, the Attorney General for Alabama Bill Pryor; fellow CASA, Mr. Charlie Maddox of Florida; Lt.Gen. Lance Lord, Commander, Air University, Maxwell A.F.B.; Maj. Gen. Willie Alexander, The Adjutant General of Alabama; Maj. Gen. Tony Jones, Commander, U.S. Army Aviation Center and Fort Rucker; Maj. Gen. Al Sullivan, Commander, U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command, Redstone Arsenal; Maj. Gen. James Darden, Commander, 87th Training Division, U.S. Army Reserve; Maj. Gen. Bowen Ballard, U.S. Air Force Reserve; and Brig. Gen. Michael Mayo, Commander, 81st Regional Support Command, U.S. Army Reserve.

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(SAR) missions day and night from 16 through 21 September and will remain on call as long as needed.

DoD ground transportation and aviation units transported needed supplies including food, ice, water, medical items, sandbags, cots and clothes. Over 400,000 Meals Ready to Eat (MRE) were sent to various distribution centers, and mobile showers were provided to some of the most remote areas.

First U.S. Army is responsible for coordinating Department of Defense (DoD) disaster relief efforts within the 27 states east of the Mississippi River, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The commander 4th Brigade, 78th Division, First U.S. Army and his staff formed the core of the Defense Coordinating Element. Soldiers and civilian employees from XVIII Airborne Corps, First U.S. Army and the 4th Cavalry Brigade augmented them.

First U.S. Army has participated in several major disaster relief operations in recent years, from Hurricanes Hugo and Andrew in which military personnel deployed to assist thousands made homeless by those storms. In 1998, First U.S. Army provided support for FEMA-led disaster relief efforts following Hurricanes Bonnie and Georges, as well as the Florida Wild Fires.

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