



National Guard Bureau
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Emergency Relief Supplemental

Legislative Analysis of Hurricane & Drought Relief Supplemental (part of HR 4837/H Rpt 108-773)

18 October 2004

"Our priorities and our vision focuses on leveraging the talents, the abilities, the selfless commitment and the enthusiasm of these Soldiers and Airmen. As Chief of the National Guard Bureau, my mission is to ensure that they receive the latest training, complete and modern equipment, and an organizational and command structure worthy of their mission and their service."

Lieutenant General H Steven Blum
Chief, National Guard Bureau
2005 National Guard Posture Statement

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Executive Summary

After the damage caused by Hurricanes Jeanne and Ivan made President Bush request \$11.8 billion in emergency assistance. The House passed HR 5212 as a bill that was first incorporated into the Homeland Security appropriations. After problems arose with homeland security appropriation, Senate and House leaders incorporated the relief package into the FY05 military construction appropriations bill. The final conference bill passed on October 9th in the House by a vote of 374-0 and passed in the Senate on October 11th by voice vote. Finally, on Thursday, October 13th the President signed this measure into law.

The following table summarizes the major marks:

<i>Dollars are in thousands</i>	<i>President Request</i>	<i>Conf. Agreement</i>	<i>Conf. Delta</i>
Army National Guard O&M	\$10,500	\$10,500	---
Air National Guard O&M	\$2,200	\$2,200	---
Defense-wide O&M	\$100,000	\$100,000	---
Procurement	\$140,000	\$140,000	---
Air Force Other Procurement	\$2,500	\$2,500	---

Army National Guard Projects

Operations & Maintenance Account

Language included \$10.5 million specifically for Army National Guard Operations & Maintenance account for "emergency hurricane and other natural disaster-related expenses".

Conference report shows that \$7 million is directed to the Florida Army National Guard for facilities repair

Account Transfer – General Provision

Sec. 503 – dictates that \$1.4 million be transferred from Army O&M to Army National Guard O&M account. The funds are to be used for the Construction Transition Program as described in House Report 108-287.

Sec. 503 – also dictates that \$500,00 be transferred from "Defense Health Programs" to Dept. of Veterans Affairs to allow the White River Junction-Fort Ethan Allen Community Based Outpatient Clinic and the Vermont National Guard to purchase Veterans Administration health care services.

Air National Guard Projects

Delaware ANG New Castle Facility

The conferees realized that substantial damage was done to ANG HQ in New Castle DE and that estimates of the damage are still be assessed. Conferees give flexibility for DE ANG to use Operations & Maintenance, Defense-wide and Procurement Defense-wide money to repair facilities and repair or replace aircraft damaged in the tornado.

Miscellaneous Language

Reporting Requirements

Secretary of Defense by December 1, 2004 must submit to Congress a quarterly comprehensive report on the distribution of funds and purposes for which funds have been used.

M-4 Rifle Requirements for OIF and OEF

Requires Dept. of Army to provide a report to congressional defense committees outlining the requirements for M-4 rifles with respect to future OIF and OEF deployments. Report must be submitted by: November 15, 2004.

Promotional Authority

Amends section 9014 of PL 108-287 to allow the Secretary of Defense the authority to present patriotic materials, including a United States flag, to military personnel who participate in OEF and OIF. Creates retroactive authority for use from June 29, 2003 thru August 4, 2004.

CERFP

Conferees included a new provision which increases the authority provided in section 9007 of PL 108-287 for Commanders' Emergency Response Program (CERP) from \$300 million to \$500 million