

348th BRIGADE SUPPORT BATTALION
5065 PINEY GROVE
CUMMING, GA 30040

January 14, 2008

MEMORANDUM FOR: Recommendation for Scott P. Lewis

SUBJECT: Florida Emergency Preparedness Association

To whom it may concern:

I am Captain Wm. George Arp of Georgia Army National Guard and have been a member of the National Guard for 20 years. I was the Military Liaison Officer for Pathfinder Task Force Katrina in Gulfport and Biloxi, Mississippi September 2005. Mr. Lewis and I first met days after Katrina hit when our re-enforced battalion and two other large Guard units from Tennessee and Indiana were assigned to Harrison County as part of the initial relief effort.

As the local civilian authority directly in charge of our unit, Mr. Lewis immediately set about tasking our 900+ military personnel into a unique door-to-door search operation the likes of which none of our command staff had ever witnessed. Mr. Lewis augmented our personnel with over 500 unaffiliated volunteers, making our Task Force almost 1500 strong. Within 24 hours of our arrival, Mr. Lewis, as the Civilian Task Force Leader working with our military commander, Brigadier General T.J. Wright, Indiana National Guard, tasked all of our personnel into a host of missions which effectively made use of our entire military force.


Not only did we map and track delivery of food and water to homebound survivors, we also dispatched countless mission assignments, "Pathfinders", to resolve special needs issues we uncovered on our initial door-to-door assignments. Additionally, Mr. Lewis coordinated other personnel to help staff 20 Points of Distribution (PODs), a County Logistics Staging Area, a large first pass debris clearing force for public schools, security forces, traffic flow details, air operations, and a supply depot in our area of operations to support our force and the community.

In my military career, this operation was by far the most complex joint military/civilian operation I ever have been involved with, and much of the credit for the success of the mission goes to Mr. Lewis. With his Incident Command knowledge and experience, he dealt hour by hour with a host of complex and ever-changing demands. Balancing the military, the local civilian EOC, the various volunteer groups, and a host of other challenges created an operation fraught with hazards which few people could have managed as effectively as he did. With us touching over 125,000 homebound victims in their doorway in just 14 days, the success of the mission speaks for itself.

Mr. Lewis deserves the highest commendation for his work during this catastrophe, and he will no doubt be a strong asset to your certification program. Since Katrina, I have followed his developing Incident Management Team as well as the refinements to the original Pathfinder model I worked with in 2005. His interest, energy, and commitment to disaster relief preparedness, response, and recovery all are to be commended. I am hopeful and would be honored to serve under Mr. Lewis' leadership again in such a joint civilian/military relief operation.

I give my strongest recommendation for Mr. Lewis to be certified as a Florida Professional Emergency Manager. Please feel free to call me at (404) 543-8241 for any further questions.

Very Respectfully,


Captain Wm. George Arp
Georgia National Guard
TC, S-1/S-3
348th Brigade Support Battalion