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FM COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC//CG-11//
TO ALCOAST

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COMDTNOTE 1754

SUBJ: NATIONAL AND FAMILY PREPAREDNESS

A. COMDT COGARD WASHINGTON DC R 182056Z DEC 08/ALCOAST 607/08 1. THIS ALCOAST PROVIDES INFORMATION ON HOW ALL MEMBERS OF THE TEAM COAST GUARD FAMILY CAN PREPARE THEMSELVES AND THEIR FAMILIES FOR NATURAL DISASTERS, PANDEMIC FLU, TERRORISM AND OTHER EMERGENCIES. 2. OUR COMMITMENT TO OPERATIONAL READINESS AND MISSION EXECUTION ENABLES US TO SAVE OTHERS IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS. HOWEVER, WHILE WE RESPOND TO THESE CRISES, OUR FAMILIES MAY BE AFFECTED BY THE SAME OR A SEPARATE EMERGENCY. 3. AS WE ENTER FALL, THE HURRICANE SEASON CONTINUES AND PUBLIC HEALTH EXPERTS WARN THAT THE REOPENING OF SCHOOLS AND RETURN OF FLU SEASON WILL LIKELY BRING A NEW SURGE OF NOVEL H1N1 INFLUENZA OUTBREAKS. AS THE COUNTRY FOCUSES ON WAYS TO INCREASE NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS, WE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY AND RESPONSIBILITY TO ALSO EXERCISE OUR GUARDIAN ETHOS IN THE OFF-DUTY ENVIRONMENT BY FOCUSING ON BEING READY AT HOME. INCREASING FAMILY PREPAREDNESS CAN REDUCE THE THREATS ASSOCIATED WITH THESE INCIDENTS. WE MUST THEREFORE PREPARE OUR OWN FAMILIES WITH THE SAME DILIGENCE THAT WE PREPARE TO EXECUTE OUR MISSIONS. KNOWING THAT OUR FAMILIES ARE SAFE AND SECURE, WE CAN FOCUS ON COMPLETING THE MISSION AT HAND. 4. THE PRIMARY MESSAGE OF THE NATIONAL "READY AMERICA" CAMPAIGN, REINFORCED BY OUR OWN "READY COAST GUARD" CAMPAIGN, IS THE SAME: A. GET AN EMERGENCY SUPPLY KIT, B. MAKE A FAMILY EMERGENCY PLAN, AND C. BE INFORMED. THIS YEARS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS THEME, ARE YOU READY OR ARE YOU "READY"?, IS DESIGNED TO GET AMERICANS TO STOP AND REALIZE THAT TRULY BEING READY GOES BEYOND FIRE ALARMS, SMOKE DETECTORS, DEAD- BOLT LOCKS, AND EXTRA FOOD IN THE PANTRY. 5. FOR TIPS ON GETTING YOUR FAMILY PREPARED TO MANAGE EMERGENCY SITUATIONS, GO TO THE OFFICE OF WORK-LIFE FAMILY READINESS PROGRAM WEBSITE AT: WWW.USCG.MIL/WORKLIFE/READY.ASP. THE SITE OFFERS DOWNLOADABLE EMERGENCY KIT CHECKLISTS AND EMERGENCY PLAN FORMS, AS WELL AS LINKS TO OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION AND HELP, SUCH AS HOW TO PREPARE AND MANAGE IMPORTANT PERSONAL AND LEGAL DOCUMENTS. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS ALSO AVAILABLE AT THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY WWW.READY.GOV WEBSITE. 6. WORK-LIFE PROGRAMS CAN ALSO ASSIST YOU IN ADDRESSING ISSUES THAT DEVELOP BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER AN EMERGENCY. TO LOCATE THE WORK- LIFE OFFICE NEAREST TO YOU, SIMPLY CALL 1-800-872-4957, AND FOLLOW THE PROMPTS, OR GO TO WWW.USCG.MIL/WORKLIFE AND CLICK ON "WORK-LIFE REGIONAL OFFICES." YOU CAN ALSO ACCESS THE COAST GUARD EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE AND WORKLIFE4YOU RESOURCE AND REFERRAL PROGRAMS AT 1-800-222-0364. ADDITIONAL DETAILS CAN BE FOUND IN REF A. 7. BE A GUARDIAN FOR YOUR FAMILY. ENSURE THAT YOUR FAMILY IS AS PREPARED AT HOME AS YOU ARE TO EXECUTE CG MISSIONS. KNOWING THAT THEY ARE SAFE AND PREPARED WILL HELP TO ENSURE THAT YOU ARE READY TO FOCUS ON SERVING THOSE WHO DEPEND ON THE COAST GUARD WHEN DANGER COMES. SEMPER PARATUS - READINESS BEGINS AT HOME. 8. CAPT D. E. CULKIN, JR., ACTING DIRECTOR OF HEALTH, SAFETY AND WORK-LIFE, SENDS. 9. INTERNET RELEASE AUTHORIZED BT NNNN