

Remarks on Arrival in San Antonio, Texas September 24, 2005

The President. Mr. Mayor, thanks—[*inaudible*—and the Judge. It's good to see you all, thanks. It's good to be back in San Antonio.

The country and the world has seen the great compassion of the Texas people after Hurricane Katrina. Over 300,000 people moved east to west, and they found home here in Texas. And the city of San Antonio, Mr. Mayor, and Judge, was—really rose up with great compassion. And I cannot thank you enough and the people of this city enough, for providing safe haven for people whose lives were turned upside down by this horrific storm. And it made me so proud to be from the State of Texas, to see the Texans rise to the occasion.

Again, I want to thank you, Mayor, and thank all the—

Mayor Phil Hardberger. Thank you, Mr. President.

The President. —houses of worship and community groups and individuals who love their neighbor like they'd like to be loved themselves.

We're now dealing with another storm, and the State of Texas is prepared for and

is now responding to the storm that's affecting east Texas. I briefed today up in Colorado about the Federal Government's response to the storm and then went to Austin to be briefed by the State officials, to make sure that we're working in concert with the State. And then tomorrow morning General Clark is going to come over and brief me once again about how the Federal Government is helping the State of Texas and Louisiana recover.

But at any rate, it's good to be back here. I'm proud of my fellow Texans, and I'm proud of the people of the San Antonio.

Mayor Hardberger. Well, we're mighty glad to have you here, Mr. President. Thank you for being with us.

The President. Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Thank you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 4:26 p.m. at Randolph Air Force Base. In his remarks, he referred to Mayor Phil Hardberger of San Antonio, TX; Bexar County Judge Nelson W. Wolff; and Lt. Gen. Robert T. Clark, USA, commander, Joint Task Force—Rita.

Remarks During a Briefing on Hurricane Rita in San Antonio September 25, 2005

[*The briefing is joined in progress.*]

The President. Yes, having said that about Katrina, there were still some amazingly heroic efforts in pulling people off roofs. I don't know how many sorties were flown in Katrina, but there must have been thousands of sorties.

Maj. Gen. White. Well, as I left last Wednesday, it was close to 18,000 sorties flown. Now, sir, that includes every agency, and it's a lot of the airlift in there too.

The President. Your point is, on a Katrina, had there been a better coordinated effort between Guard choppers—Coast Guard choppers, regular Army choppers, it would have been less dangerous?

Maj. Gen. White. It would have been a better orchestrated plan. You wouldn't have seen a lot of—for instance, one of the things that we've learned out of that—we had someone that needed to be rescued, and that comes up on the net. Five