

*PARISH OF ORLEANS  
STATE OF LOUISIANA*

I, Staff Sergeant John A. Johnson, being duly sworn, do hereby testify as follows:

1. All the statements in this affidavit are based on my personal knowledge.
2. I am a lifelong resident of New Orleans, Louisiana.
3. I have served in the military and federal service for a total of 34 years. For 20 of those years I have served in the United States Army, including the past twelve years. My specialty is as Prime Power Electrician, 205th Engineering Battalion. I served in Afghanistan (one tour of duty) and Iraq (three tours of duty). I was granted a request to return home early from Iraq, after which time Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans. I was recruited to work with Task Force Castle, Louisiana National Guard, by Colonel Douglas Mouton, Task Force Commander.
4. My primary experience in the Army consists of helping to restore electric power and otherwise assist in restoring order after a natural or man-made disaster causes widespread chaos. I have headed up teams numerous times in Afghanistan and Iraq in circumstances that were harder to fix than the impact of Hurricane Katrina on New Orleans, when you take into account the huge amount of volunteer resources that were available after Katrina, compared with the desolate circumstances we have faced in Afghanistan and Iraq.
5. I first came into contact with the situation at Charity Hospital in early September 2005. Medical personnel at the Superdome had run out of medications, and I was told to find medications at one of the local hospitals. I

went to Charity Hospital, and found people there stranded. I asked if there were military representatives who knew of their plight. When I heard there were none, I made reports and the military arrived thereafter.

6. Beginning on about September 7, 2005, I played a leadership role in restoring power to Charity Hospital, and in assisting in the cleanup of Charity in an effort to make it ready for possible quartering of soldiers. Between September 7 and September 19, 2005, I personally witnessed and participated in the complete restoration of the first and second and parts of the third floor of Charity Hospital. On or about September 19, 2005, I was told by officials representing LSU that they were taking steps to terminate our work.
7. Among the work done by me and others, we rerouted power from the basement, which was flooded when I arrived, and restored power to the first floor of Charity. We powered up the entire emergency room. We also used a backup generator to power up floors 3 through 19, and saw the generators successfully do that. I then arranged for the delivery of powerful state of the art generators from General Electric, which would have the capacity to provide power to floors 3 through 19 on a longer-term basis. Those generators were delivered on-site in mid-September. LSU officials, in my presence, refused to accept the generators, and as a result, General Electric took them away.
8. Early in my work at Charity, the 82d Airborne arrived. A key leader of a component of the 82d Airborne, Task Force Panther, was Staff Sergeant Jason Howard. He and I and others determined we could power up the first

three floors by distributing the load among sets of generators supplied to us and we did so. But the primary work done by the 82d was to lead the cleanup of Charity, along with a group of emergency room doctors and other emergency room personnel, and volunteers from many sources, both military and civilian. As an example, the 21<sup>st</sup> Chemical Company, attached to the 82d Airborne, did a complete decontamination of the entire first floor, including the emergency room and the ICU, and decontaminated the second floor and other floors as well.

9. The 82d Airborne worked around the clock, in shifts, to clean Charity Hospital and make it ready to reopen. Almost immediately, over a three-day period, they pumped all the water out of the basement, using giant German-run pumps with 4-inch pipe, which I found at the Superdome being underutilized. The 82d then sent in their decontamination teams to clean up and test, to determine if the basement and first three floors were decontaminated. The team did this over several days, and on September 19 declared the tested floors ready for human habitation.
10. It was at this time I and others got word that LSU wanted us out of the building in order to shut the building down.
11. The personnel who helped clean up Charity consisted of about 160 soldiers from the 82d Airborne, working in shifts around the clock. Also, the Louisiana National Guard volunteered help. All told, I estimate there were 200 personnel working on the cleanup, but not all at the same time. The Coast

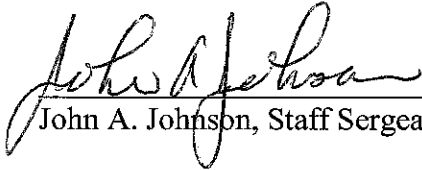
Guard, Seabees were there as well, and also personnel from the Navy ship docked at the port.

12. The 82d Airborne made the cleanup of Charity a priority mission. Jason Howard was the commander. Initially they brought buckets of water, cases of bleach and chemicals, overseen by their specialists in decontamination. They fanned throughout the building, and created a strategy for how, what and when to clean and decontaminate, and they proceeded to implement that plan.
13. After the decontamination of the first, second and some of the third floor, the chemical specialists tested each area to make sure it was decontaminated, before moving on to clean another area.
14. The chemical teams were meticulous. They came back time after time to clean and test, and were satisfied only when the decontamination was total and complete. I can attest from personal knowledge that the emergency room was cleaner than it was before Katrina.
15. I recall three occasions when officials identifying themselves as representing LSU came into Charity. On all three occasions, they attempted to stop the work we were doing. For example, on one occasion, we were told by an electrical engineer representing LSU that it was not possible to power the building back up. My military colleagues and I reviewed the building blueprints, determined there was a way, and proceeded to power the building up, and to arrange the longer-term solution, using GE generators. LSU officials opposed our efforts, and eventually told us to turn off the power to floors 4 through 19 and were responsible for the return of the replacement

generators to GE. Finally, on September 19, we were told by LSU officials that they were arranging for our removal from Charity and intended to shut the building permanently.

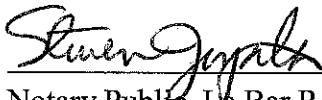
16. I have received military awards for my work in New Orleans after Katrina. I received a meritorious service award for my work at Charity Hospital and Touro Hospital. Also I received an Army achievement award for finding housing and food for soldiers coming into New Orleans after Katrina. Also, relevant to my work in New Orleans, I have received an Army commendation for design of powering systems for crisis sites. I have been involved in the construction of more than 20 military bases.

Signed under pains and penalties of perjury this 28 day of April, 2009.



John A. Johnson, Staff Sergeant, United States Army.

Sworn to and Subscribed before me, Steven Jupiter, Notary Public, on this 28<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2009.



Notary Public, La Bar Roll no. 24815

**STEVEN M. JUPITER**  
**NOTARY PUBLIC**  
**State of Louisiana**  
**My Commission Is Issued For Life**  
**Louisiana Bar Roll No. 24815**