

The Gazette

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HURRICANE KATRINA

GULF COAST BATTERED

STORM'S WRATH

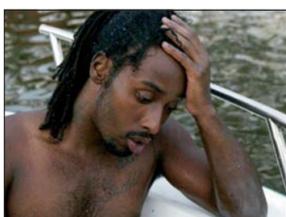


THE ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOS
The windows on the north side of the Hyatt Hotel in New Orleans were blown out by Hurricane Katrina.

Landfall: Katrina hit the Gulf Coast Monday at Buras, La., as a Category 4 hurricane, packing winds of 145 mph. It pummeled 270 miles of coastline across four states, from Louisiana to the Florida Panhandle.
Storm surge: 28 feet in Mississippi.
Winds: 135 mph in Mississippi; 100 mph in New Orleans.
Power outages: 1,052,000 customers were without electricity in four states.
Deaths: At least 50 people died in Mississippi, two in Alabama and three in Louisiana; 11 died when Katrina crossed South Florida last week.

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INSIDE



Henry Rhodes sat in a New Orleans police boat after being rescued in the 7th Ward.

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Pocahontas Gomez, left, and her aunt Brenda Varnado toured the Bywater neighborhood in New Orleans after Katrina moved through Monday. Katrina weakened slightly and moved eastward just before reaching land, sparing New Orleans the devastation that many had feared. The hurricane left widespread destruction, however, including 55 dead. That number is expected to climb today.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOS

KNIGHT RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

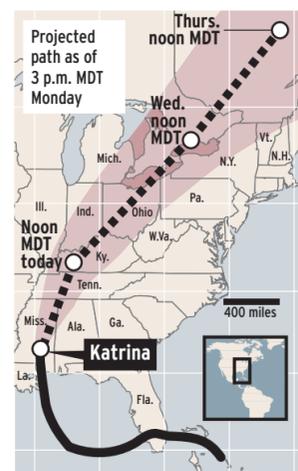
NEW ORLEANS • At least 55 people died, floods engulfed thousands of homes, and shell-shocked survivors retreated to attics and wind-blown roofs Monday as one of the most sweeping hurricane disasters of modern times ravaged the upper Gulf Coast.

Authorities in Mississippi blamed Katrina for 50 deaths in the Gulfport and Biloxi area. Two people died in Alabama, and at least three bodies were seen in New Orleans.

The casualty toll seemed certain to mount as conditions improved and workers in boats and helicopters searched through the night and after daylight for victims.

In another measure of misery, tens of thousands of people will need temporary housing for months, Michael Brown, di-

SEE KATRINA • PAGE 5



KNIGHT RIDDER TRIBUNE

WHAT'S NEXT

Katrina is not through unleashing heavy rain and wind.

As the storm moves north, the system is forecast to dump 4 to 8 inches in the Tennessee Valley, Ohio Valley and Great Lakes area, with higher amounts in scattered areas. Tornadoes were possible in parts of Mississippi, Alabama and the Florida Panhandle.

Katrina weakened to a tropical storm Monday as it moved through eastern Mississippi.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Air Force guidelines on religion encourage sensitivity

By PAM ZUBECK
THE GAZETTE

The Air Force, in a directive on religious expression released Monday, cautioned against most public prayer and urged leaders to be sensitive about sharing their faith.

The long-awaited guidelines, praised by some and blasted by others, are part of the Air Force's response to claims the Air Force Academy favors evangelical Christianity.

The draft rules, to be finalized Nov. 1 when incorporated into a training program, will apply Air Force-wide to military and civilian personnel.

"Commitment to a climate in which individuals of diverse beliefs form an effective team is essential to achieving excellence," the guidelines say.

A need for rules was noted June 22

MORE ONLINE

Check out the full guidelines on religion at www.gazette.com

by an Air Force task force that studied the academy's religious atmosphere after cadet and faculty surveys revealed a perception among some of a bias toward Christianity.

The four-page directive addresses religious accommodation, public prayer, how individuals share their faith, chaplains and e-mails.

Worship services, holy days, Sabbath observances, dietary requirements and medical issues associated with all religions "should be approved except when precluded by military necessity," the directive says. "Above all, commanders must ensure that they create a climate where individuals believe that requests for accommodation are welcomed and will be fairly considered."

Public prayer "should not usually be included" in staff meetings, classes

or sports events, but "extraordinary circumstances may drive exceptions." The policy doesn't identify what qualifies as an extraordinary circumstance.

The guidelines allow for a "brief nonsectarian prayer" to add a "heightened sense of seriousness" at special events such as changes-of-command, promotion ceremonies or "significant celebrations."

SEE GUIDELINES • PAGE 4

TEXAS-BOUND

Doherty senior running back Lamarr Houston says he's going to the University of Texas. • Sports



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Hot and dry today.
Clouds and cooler on Wednesday. Metro 8

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