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**HURRICANE KATRINA | EXPANDED COVERAGE INSIDE**

# 'NOT ACCEPTABLE'

**Bush acknowledges more must be done**

**Troops arrive in force at Superdome A7**

**FEMA ripped for response time A8**



DAVID J. PHILLIP | ASSOCIATED PRESS

Residents sit among their belongings and trash Friday as they wait to be evacuated outside the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans. The arrival of troops and supplies was cheered, but its timeliness was questioned.

## 'We're going to make it right,' president says

BY JENNIFER LOVEN  
Associated Press Writer

NEW ORLEANS | Scorched by criticism about sluggish federal help, President Bush acknowledged the government's failure to stop lawlessness and help desperate people in New Orleans. "The results are not acceptable," Bush said Friday in the face of mounting complaints from Republicans and Democrats alike.



PRESIDENT BUSH

Bush promised to crack down on crime and violence, rush food and medicine to the needy and restore electrical power within weeks to millions of customers across the Gulf Coast in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

"This is a storm that requires immediate action now," the president said after a day-long tour of Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana. "I understand the devastation requires more than one day's attention. It's going to require the attention of this country

See BUSH, A5



NATALIE BATTAGLIA | THE TIMES

Jennifer Dust, an EMT for Superior Ambulance in Valparaiso, holds daughter Haley, 4, before leaving for New Orleans with a convoy of 20 ambulances.

### AFTER THE STORM

- Gas prices aren't affecting travel at the Gary/Chicago International Airport right now, but the cost of fuel means a rise in the airport budget. **BIZNEWS**
- Region residents turn out in high numbers to take volunteer courses offered by the Red Cross.

LOCALNEWS

## Superior medics leave home and families to help

BY OLIVIA CLARKE  
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Jennifer Dust held her 4-year-old daughter Haley in her arms; both gripped each other as they waited to say goodbye.

Dust, an EMT for the past six years, is one of 40 people from Superior Ambulance Service who left Friday night from the Highland office and headed south to areas hit by Hurricane Katrina. They were bound for Lafayette, La., to relieve Acadian Ambulance Service crews there.

From throughout Northwest Indiana and Illinois, the Superior employees gave up their time for at least a week to help relief efforts.

Among Dust's supplies were her daughter's pillowcase, Scooby blanket and stuffed monkey. She stood close to her daughter and her husband Jim as she waited for orders.

Jim barely held back tears when asked how he feels about his wife going.

"I'm just ready to go," said Jennifer Dust, who works in Valparaiso. "I just want to have the experience and help out."

See AMBULANCE, A6

## Brother runs gauntlet for his dying sibling

BY JERRY DAVICH  
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John Ward came home to die. Jack Ward opened his home to his big brother for however long it may take.

Jack, a paramedic, traveled two straight days in a company ambulance, past snapped power lines and trees bent like twigs, to pick up John in Mississippi.

John, a 37-year-old region native who moved there in 1999 with his mother, lived through Hurricane Katrina earlier this week. But barely.

A quadriplegic since 1984, John was diagnosed with serious blood infections and has been receiving hospice care there for weeks.

"He's dying," said his mother, Beverly Ward, who has been caregiver to John for 21 years. "And he's ready."

After the storm hit, their home lost power. No air conditioning. No medical treatment. Nowhere to go. The local hospital only admitted life-threatening cases, not end-of-life illnesses.

But, "John had a 104-degree temperature,"

See FAMILY, A6

### TO HELP PATRIOT PACKS' CAUSE

For more information on Patriot Packs Inc., or to volunteer time, money or care package items in need, visit [www.patriotpacks.org](http://www.patriotpacks.org), e-mail [patriotpacks@yahoo.com](mailto:patriotpacks@yahoo.com), call (219) 872-4USA or write to P.O. Box 2135, Michigan City, IN 46361.

## 113th Battalion might be home by Christmas

BY JERRY DAVICH  
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Indiana Army National Guard soldiers serving in Iraq with the local 113th Engineer Battalion may be returning home in time for the Christmas holidays.

In a letter posted online for families, Commander Lt. Col. Richard Shatto wrote: "We are in our last stretch of the deployment ... scheduled for a Dec. 8th transfer of authority ... when we will cease operations and transfer our responsibility of support to another unit." From that point, the battalion

will return to Kuwait for a week or two to load its equipment before boarding planes to return to Indiana's Camp Atterbury, where the soldiers will "out-process" from their active duty tour.

Shatto wrote: "We are hoping our soldiers will have the opportunity to spend the

December holidays ... at home before completing their out-processing. However, we are not sure and will keep you updated."

The 113th includes Company A from LaPorte, Company B from Valparaiso and Company C

See BATTALION, A2

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