

16 Sep 05

MEMORANDUM FOR ALL SAF/LL

FROM: SAF/LLS (Col Lazarski)

SUBJECT: Trip Report – CODEL Frist

1. The purpose of this letter is to document the Congressional Delegation (CODEL) Frist, September 2005.

2. Travelers.

Members - Senator Max Baucus (D-MT), Senator Thad Cochran (R-MS), Senator Susan Collins (R-ME), Senator Chris Dodd (D-CT), Senator Dick Durbin (D-IL), Senator Mike Enzi (R-WY), Senator James Inhofe (R-OK), Senator Ted Kennedy (D-MA), Senator Joe Lieberman (D-CT), Senator Richard Shelby (R-AL), Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), Senator John Warner (R-VA)

Staffers - Mark Espær (Sen Frist), Amy Call (Sen Frist), Waldo McMillan (Sen Reid), Rebecca Kirsznar (Sen Reid), Bruce King (Sen Reid), Doug Badger (White House LL)

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3. Purpose – Committee travel in accordance with title 31, USC to view Hurricane Katrina devastation in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama.

4. Schedule

- Bus/POVs to Andrews at 0615 (Capitol Police DV Protection Unit was invaluable to facilitate the moving parts and ensure Senators were escorted from the main gate to the flightline easily and with one POC)
- Wheels up in the C-32 eight minutes late enroute to New Orleans---made up 12 minutes enroute and landed four minutes early at the NO International Airport.
- Met by Department of Homeland Security personnel and 82nd Airborne crews for the four Blackhawks – flawless helo ops
- Blackhawks over the New Orleans metropolitan and outlying areas to view the flooding and devastation
- Landed 15 minutes late on the Iwo Jima which is docked behind the Convention Center downtown
- Briefed on the Iwo Jima by Admiral Thad Allen, Governor Kathleen Blanco, Lt Gen Honore, and Mayor Ray Nagin
- Moved by two 15-pax vans and 2 mini-vans to the eating area outside Harrah's, where there were multiple press opportunities

- Lunch with volunteers /Port-o-lets available
- Movement back to the Blackhawks (which had re-positioned) via vans
- Blackhawks over St Tammany parish and into Mississippi where we landed in Pass Christian
- Senators Durbin, Stabenow, and Inhofe departed the CODEL at this point...the other Members boarded a bus with the mayor of Pass Christian for an up-close view of destruction
- Blackhawks over Gulfport and into Biloxi to land at Keesler AFB, MS, where we received a briefing from the 2AF/CC and the 81TRW/CC on the response to the hurricane and the future of training at Keesler
- Blackhawks to Mobile, AL where we landed at the Coast Guard side of the airfield and received a briefing from the AL Governor and local Mayors. Senator Sessions joined the CODEL at this point
- Boarded the C-32 20 minutes late enroute to Andrews AFB, MD.
- Landed at Andrews at 1945---Members dispersed into the bus to the Hill or their personal vehicles to the airport

5. Discussion / Recommendations

- Positive comments from all the members and staff
- Leaders in New Orleans took on a lot of extra work to host two large CODELs within two days of each other. Request on-site help if we are going to do this again or continue to send DVs down there.
- 82nd Airborne were outstanding in support – flawless helo ops
- Some minor set-up (number of chairs, microphone, number of people in room) and transpo issues on Senate trip that was fixed on House trip (New Orleans)
- Lunch with volunteers was a big plus / Press conference set up after lunch across the street worked well
- Make sure members know we will be using port-o-lets
- Escorts carried water, snacks, sunscreen, mosquito repellent and hand-cleaner (4 LL escorts each had a backpack) – water and hand-cleaner needed plus some snacks
- Tour of Pass Christian was one of the key points of the CODEL – devastation hit home, seen up close
- Eagle Vision imagery expert briefings hit the mark (large imagery printouts of area, Falcon View computer displayed imagery of entire area...before and afterwards). Each staffer and member cycled through and received briefing – provided overall of the CODEL and helped the members understand what areas we would be flying over/visiting
- Handling 14-17 members on the CODEL made it very difficult to stay on time throughout the day – ended the day landing 20 min late
- Walkie-talkies would have worked better than cell phones
- One LL escort in each helo and vehicle worked very well and ensure we did not lose anyone

- Needed to add in extra time for helos to start and take-off/movement of members/comfort breaks
- Headset and a guide (Coast Guard first leg and FEMA last two legs) worked perfectly – a must (again Army did great!)
- Ensure LL escorts are aware of any member/staffer who may have trouble walking/using stairs/climbing in and out of helos.
- Need to get follow-on itineraries from offices of any Members who plan to peel off the CODEL early
- Include the DV Protection unit of the Cap Police before, during, and after the trip
- Overall, the trip was very productive and met the expectations of the members of the CODEL

6. If I can be of further assistance, I can be contacted at (b)(6) or via email at (b)(6)

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Chief, USAF Senate Liaison Office

SEN William Frist Codel Middle East Jan 05 Report

Dates:

7/8 Jan: Kuwait City
8 Jan: Baghdad
9-11: New Delhi
11/12 Jan: Islamabad
12 Jan: Kabul/Manama

Members: Sen Frist (R-TN), Sen McConnell (R-KY), Sen Coleman (R-MN), Sen Dewine (R-OH), Sen Landrieu (D-LA, Baghdad portion only)

Purpose: To conduct meetings with Heads of State and other leaders of government and to assess the security situation in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Summary: All scheduled events occurred as fraggged in Baghdad and Kabul. The Delegation was well received at all stops. The delegation appeared to have met all their expectations and goals at each stop.

Baghdad: C-130 transportation to and from BIAP from Kuwait City. LTG Petraeus conducted briefings and enroute to IZ security force demonstration. Meeting was conducted with GEN Casey at Camp Victory after which Helos transported the delegation to the IZ. Meeting with PM Allawi and an impromptu "town hall" type meeting with PM Allawi and 100 or so Sunni Sheiks to discuss the coming election were the highlights of the IZ portion. Also had meetings with UN election supervisor, Sistani representative and Task Force Omaha brief. Helo transport back to BIAP, dinner with Home State troops and a meeting with 1st Cav CDR. Return to Kuwait City.

Islamabad: Met with President Musharraf. Helo tour of Line of Control scrubbed due to poor WX. There was a lunch hosted by Senate Chairman Soomro as well as meetings with Education Minister.

Kabul: C-130 from Islamabad to Kabul delayed in landed for 1 hour in Kabul due to WX. Schedule on ground executed but some meetings were shortened. Highlight was meeting with President Karzai and Press conference. Visited Troops and received briefings at CFC-A HQ. C-130 from Kabul to Manama. There were no meetings in Bahrain.