

February 28, 2007

Major General Tod M. Bunting
The Adjutant General
2800 SW Topeka Boulevard
Topeka, Kansas 66611

Dear Major General Bunting:

On behalf of the *Hurricane Digital Memory Bank (HDMB)*, a digital history project co-produced by the Center for History and New Media at George Mason University and the University of New Orleans, I want to commend highly the work and efforts of the 102nd Military History Detachment and its previous commander, Major Anthony Randall, to document the National Guard's responses to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Major Randall and I first communicated in January 2006 about ways to collaborate after I learned of the Detachment's work. As historians we understood how imperative it was to document the experiences of those who served and responded to Katrina and Rita, and make those sources available to the larger public. I was delighted when I learned that a partnership was possible, because it meant that the Detachment could share its collection of oral histories, photographs, and documents with *HDMB*.

HDMB seeks to collect and present as many perspectives from Katrina and Rita as possible, and the National Guard response adds a critical piece to this giant story. *HDMB* will prove invaluable to future historians and is ever richer by the contributions of the 102nd.

Recently, the Detachment's data was uploaded to *HDMB* and stands as our largest collection, comprised of over 10,000 files (see: <http://www.hurricanearchive.org/browse/?collection=96>), and increased the archive's overall size to 23,000 entries.

We want to thank the industrious men and women of the 102nd Military History Detachment for their important contributions to the historical record.

Sincerely yours,

Sheila A. Brennan
Project Manager, Hurricane Digital Memory Bank
<http://www.hurricanearchive.org>

Cc: Colonel David J. Wheeler, Major Anthony Randall