



News Release

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NSA Panama City to participate in hurricane exercise

Panama City, Fla. – With hurricane season approaching, Naval Support Activity Panama City will participate in an annual hurricane exercise, May 3-14.

“Hurricanes can happen ... knowing what to do and having a plan is really what this exercise is about both here on the installation but also at home,” NSA Panama City Meteorology Oceanography Officer Lt. Leanna Cox said.

HURREX-Citadel Gale 2021 is designed to prepare the Navy to respond to weather threats in coastal regions and maintain the ability to deploy forces even under the most adverse weather conditions.

U.S. Fleet Forces Command and Commander, Navy Installations Command have held HURREX-Citadel Gale on all Navy installations with personnel in Navy Region Mid-Atlantic, Naval District Washington and Navy Region Southeast-ashore, afloat, in port and underway.

The two-week exercise occurs back-to-back. Hurrex focuses on a synthetic storm track and the installation’s ability to respond and prepare for destructive weather in the Atlantic while Citadel Gale reviews internal hurricane preparedness exercises to ensure readiness for the hurricane season.

“The first week includes tabletop discussions where we will look at the Emergency Family Assistance Center (for) the type of support family members and Sailors forced to evacuate would need and review emergency action plans with our installation tenants and community partners,” Cox added. “During week two, we would typically do hurricane moor when directed by a transition in Tropical Cyclone of Readiness that indicates we need to prepare the vessels in our harbor for destructive weather that is going to come into our area.”

The emergency manager and leadership will also visit the Bay County Emergency Operations Center, (which) is the backup location to continue NSA Panama City’s mission in the event the installation has to evacuate.

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Naval Support Activity Panama City

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With COVID-19 pandemic posing a risk to the force's health during the upcoming hurricane season, the installation will ensure mitigation measures are considered for hurricane response planning.

"We did this in 2020. We're still going to need to make sure we have inventory for face masks ... hygiene and (cleaning) products," Cox explained. "If we need to go into an environment where we would bring people together in a smaller space, we definitely want to make sure we have enough cleaning supplies."

The installation is also working to establish a virtual emergency operations center allowing people to work remotely in a COVID-19 environment.

The exercise is a great opportunity to build relationships with community partners.

"We are a really small installation so having good relationships with the community is essential," Cox remarked.

Hurricane preparedness week kicks off May 9-15 during the exercise, the community is encouraged to prepare for hurricane season.

Photos of Hurrex-Citadel Gale and soundbites from Lt. Leanna Cox will be released on [DVIDS](#) for media use.

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