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## COASTAL ENVIRONMENTAL SYSTEMS, INC.

# Coastal Commended for Hurricane Katrina Performance

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**Seattle, WA:** At ground zero of the widespread chaos surrounding Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath, four automated weather stations designed and built by Seattle-based Coastal Environmental Systems, Inc. and located at Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi, Miss., not only survived, but continued functioning, eventually serving relief flights landing at Keesler.

The storm slammed into the air base with wind gusts topping 145 mph, flooding many areas with up to 6 feet of water, but Coastal's Automated Weather Observation Systems, despite being partially submerged, stayed on the job. Among the four weather stations – three of which are used for training and one to provide weather information for the actual airfield – only four component parts were damaged. Amid the chaos, these parts were replaced in less than 24 hours, allowing the airfield system to continue to providing air traffic controllers with critical data for landings and takeoffs during the relief effort.

The weather stations measure vital statistics about conditions facing air flights: wind speed and direction, cloud height, visibility, humidity, temperature, precipitation and approaching storms. Coastal Environmental maintains - or is installing - weather stations at up to 200 U.S. Air Bases around the world and also provides the official weather at the South Pole and operates hundreds of similar stations.

“It warms our hearts to have been able to help with the relief effort,” said Coastal’s CEO, Don Munro. “In a disaster of this kind, reliability is the key and we were pleased that the stations held up and functioned as well as they did.”

In a letter written by U.S. Air Force Colonel Mary A. Vehr, Michael Keegan, working on Coastal’s Helpdesk, was commended for his role in keeping the system up and running:

“Please extend my sincere and personal appreciation to Mr. Michael Keegan for the outstanding support he provided to Keesler Air Force Base following

**Story CONTINUED on next page...** .....



## ... Katrina, CONTINUED

Hurricane Katrina's aftermath. The AN/FMQ-19 Automatic Meteorological System incurred severe damage on three major subassemblies. Michael's quick support and shipping of replacements assets was instrumental in Keesler's airfield becoming a 24/7 staging and recovery area for the entire Gulf Coast. His actions exemplify dedication and commitment to excellent customer service. Many thanks for a job well done."

Coastal Environmental Systems, Inc. designs, engineers, manufactures and installs professional environmental monitoring systems. The firm's data acquisition systems have been deployed around the world, many in extreme and demanding environments, such as Antarctica, or on board combat-class U.S. vessels. Since its founding in 1981, the company has provided weather-monitoring stations to a long list of domestic and international customers, including military, fire departments, first response agencies and industrial companies.