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THE WHITE HOUSE
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President Bush Selects Major General Doug O'Dell as Coordinator of Federal Support for Recovery and Rebuilding of the Gulf Coast

[Fact Sheet: President Bush Selects Major General Doug O'Dell to Serve as Gulf Coast Coordinator](#)

Today, I am pleased to select Major General Doug O'Dell to serve as Coordinator of Federal Support for the Recovery and Rebuilding of the Gulf Coast.

General O'Dell is an innovative problem solver with a wealth of experience in helping the people of the Gulf Coast region. As the Commanding General of the 4th Marine Division in New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, he employed over 2,700 Marines and Sailors to evacuate thousands of civilians, deliver essential cargo, and restore basic functions in more than 30 buildings. His strategic judgment during Hurricane Rita enabled troops to deliver relief almost immediately after the storm. He has earned the trust of many in the Region, including State and local officials, and is the right person for this important job.

General O'Dell understands the progress made in the Gulf Coast region, the important work ahead, and the great spirit of the people who call that region home. He will build on the efforts of Don Powell to help the people of the region continue to rebuild their lives and their communities. I also want to thank Paul Conway for doing a fine job as Interim Coordinator.

I am pleased to announce as well that I have signed an Executive Order to extend the Federal Coordinator position until February 28, 2009. This extension will ensure a seamless transition into the next Administration so that the Federal Government can continue to deliver effective, integrated, and responsible support to the people of the Gulf Coast region.

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