



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Disasters are our business.
Veterans are our passion.

9/11 Veterans Find New Sense of Purpose Helping Rebuild Communities After Devastating Hurricanes

HOUSTON, (September 8, 2017) – The 9/11 terrorist attacks created an opportunity for many Americans to volunteer for military service when the nation needed it most. Once servicemembers leave the military, many veterans are left looking for a new sense of purpose.

[Team Rubicon](#), a veteran-led disaster response organization, helps veterans find a way to continue their service by seizing opportunities to make a difference and apply their intrinsic leadership skills in a new role in their civilian communities.

Jennie Haskamp, a Team Rubicon volunteer, had already served one tour in the U.S. Marine Corps but decided to quit college and reenlisted on Sept. 13, 2001 because of the terrorist attacks. In the summer of 2016, Haskamp deployed with Team Rubicon to Baton Rouge, La. to help those who needed assistance after the massive flooding.

“I found a place to continue to serve—a place where I am veteran enough,” said Haskamp, who is currently deployed to Houston to aid in Hurricane Harvey relief efforts. “We paused operations to commemorate September 11th on our FOB in a Home Depot parking lot and, surrounded by firefighters, cops, veterans and people from every walk of life, I felt like I was finally home.”

Now that the Hurricane Harvey floodwaters have receded, Team Rubicon's Area Command is established in Houston to coordinate and support responses in multiple communities of Texas, including Rockport, Magnolia, Friendswood, Beaumont, and others across Harris County.

On Aug. 31, Team Rubicon began its second phase of operations focused on the cleanup effort – debris removal, damage assessments, muck outs, expedient home repair, and heavy equipment operations. The organization is also planning its long-term recovery efforts for residents of Houston and surrounding areas.

Since Hurricane Harvey made landfall last week more than 6,000 people have signed up to volunteer with Team Rubicon. Any one wanting to join the cause of serving communities affected by natural disasters can register at <http://www.teamrubiconusa.org>

About Team Rubicon

Team Rubicon unites the skills and experiences of military veterans with first responders to rapidly deploy emergency response teams. Team Rubicon is a nonprofit organization offering veterans a chance to continue their service by helping and empowering those afflicted by disasters, and also themselves. Programs and services are made possible by the support of individual donors, corporate partners, and the dedication of volunteers across the country. To join or support Team Rubicon's mission, visit <https://teamrubiconusa.org>.

Media Contact:

Duane DeVorak

Team Rubicon Public Relations

devorak@teamrubiconusa.org

310-666-0990

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