

*“I believe that more forces are required. And I think that over the next several months we can put them, certainly, to good use.”*

—Army Maj. Gen. Jeffrey J. Schloesser, commander of Combined Joint Task Force 101 and 101st Airborne Division, to Pentagon reporters during a satellite-carried news conference in September 2008. Insurgent attacks in Afghanistan have increased 20 to 30 percent from 2007 to now, said Schloesser, who arrived in Afghanistan in April and also heads counterinsurgency operations for NATO’s Regional Command East. NATO’s International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan consists of about 45,000 troops, including around 15,000 U.S. troops. Another 19,000 or so U.S. troops are assigned to Combined Joint Task Force 101.

*“...Most importantly the families are the forgotten sufferers. It’s not so traumatic as PTSD (post-traumatic stress disorder) or suicide or depression, but they’re the ones the returning service members need while they are away and while they are here to be there for them.”*

—Dr. Judith Broder, Director of The Solider’s Project, a Los Angeles-based volunteer group of licensed mental health professionals who offer free and confidential counseling to service members of Iraq/ Afghanistan conflicts and their families



U.S. Army soldiers return to clear roads after evacuating the residents of Houma, La., on Sept. 3, 2008. The soldiers are assigned to the 1st Platoon, 843rd Engineer Company, 205th Engineer Battalion, 225th Engineer Brigade, Louisiana National Guard. DoD photo by Staff Sgt. Russell Lee Klika, U.S. Army.

*“We’re basically out there showing our face and helping the public with anything we can.”*

—Army Sgt. Darren Chabert, Louisiana National Guard. Chabert was one of thousands of National Guard members who were mobilized in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and other states to deal with Gustav’s wrath.

*“Our military children are awesome, just as their parents are. But they have extra hurdles to clear, burdens to bear – repeated moves, the absence of a parent at war, an injured parent, or the loss of a parent...And this is why the extraordinary efforts of local communities and groups like this, which support military families, are so vitally important. You give our fighting men and women peace of mind because they know what you are doing for them and for their families – helping to mitigate the effects of these sacrifices on their children – helping to make sure their children can reach their full potential.”*

—Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates, speaking to attendees of the Military Child Education Coalition Conference in July 2008.