



NEWS RELEASE

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MIDDLE DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA*

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For Immediate Release

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United States Attorney David R. Dugas announced today that JOHN PHILLIP DUGAN, age 19, a resident of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, pled guilty today before District Court Judge Frank J. Polozola to Count One of an Indictment charging DUGAN with making false and fraudulent claims for disaster assistance benefits.

As a result of his plea of guilty to Count One of the Indictment, DUGAN faces a sentence of imprisonment of a maximum of five (5) years and a \$250,000 fine, or both. As part of the plea agreement, the U. S. Attorney's Office will dismiss Count Two of the Indictment when DUGAN is sentenced on Count One.

In September 2005, Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales created the Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force, designed to deter, investigate, and prosecute disaster-related federal crimes such as charity fraud, identity theft, procurement fraud, and insurance fraud. The Hurricane Katrina Fraud Task Force – chaired by Assistant Attorney General Alice S. Fisher of the Criminal Division – includes members from the FBI, the Federal Trade

Commission, the Postal Inspector's Office, and the Executive Office of the United States Attorneys, among others.

The case was investigated by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of the Inspector General, and the FBI.

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