

31. Hurricane Beulah (2:07)

I went to Brownsville. I was the senior man. We rescued people. At the end of the day, I put together a message telling about what we did. I put in my first message, I asked if we were supposed to rescue Mexicans and if I have authority to go into Mexico and I got no answer to that question. We saved 400 people in four days.

I decided, if they're in danger, put them in a safe place.

My guys - I had some super pilots that did some super rescues. I mean rescued six and eight people in an hour - whatever - that sort of thing. And then when we got done I got this group of people - I had 30 people - one of them was a photographer out of Washington - and I wanted to give them all Coast Guard medals - each one - a Coast Guard medal because that's the way they worked. The photographer was pulling people into the airplane before he was taking pictures.

Instead of each guy getting an award, the Coast Guard gave the Coast Guard Air Station Corpus Christi a Commendation Medal for Brownsville. All they ever did was provide us with an airplane so we could have a communication capability.

And then I stole some gas off of them. We borrowed their gas before we got our fuel trucks.

Related Primary Leadership Principles

Accountability

Authority of Position

Capacity to Care

Communications

Feedback

Field Presence

Information

Recognition

Responsibility