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Sheriff's Deputy Susan Bodrazka and rescue dog Hero are deployed to Mississippi to search flooded areas for survivors of Hurricane Katrina.



PHOTO: GAYLE ANDERSON

Deputy Bodrazka and Hero Will Search for Katrina Survivors

(Sept. 1, 2005) Sheriff's Deputy Susan Bodrazka had only a few hours' notice when she was ordered to pack her bags and get her rescue dog, Hero, ready for a minimum two-week deployment to storm-ravaged Mississippi.

By 1 p.m., Wednesday, she was to meet with other members of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's California Task Force at the Orange County Fire Department headquarters in Irvine.

Bodrazka, a member of the Sheriff's Transit Services Bureau, and Hero then boarded a chartered bus along with other FEMA rescue workers for the long road trip to Mississippi.

A U.S. Army Reserve military policewoman who participated in Desert Storm, Bodrazka, 41, has been a Sheriff's deputy for some 15 years and a dog handler for the past two years.

On arrival in Mississippi, Bodrazka and Hero will be assigned to search flooded areas for survivors of Hurricane Katrina. This will be the first such deployment for the canine rescue team.