

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2024

THE OFFICIAL NEWS MAGAZINE OF
THE FEDERATION



VOYAGES

ONCE MORE INTO THE BREACH

FEDERATION CHAPTERS IN BATTLE ZONES



INCOMING MESSAGES FROM

FEDERATION HEADQUARTERS

FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we approach the coming of fall and winter (and the end of tourist season at Federation HQ), we're working on some exciting new development for Fed HQ and the entire organization for 2025. Stay tuned for all the exiting updates.

In other matters, a number of our chapters are suffering in emergency zones. From wild fires to hurricanes, our members are doing their best to weather the storms while reaching out to help fellow victims in true Federation tradition of service. If you can help, I am sure they'll appreciate it.

Thank you all for all you do!

GET RECOGNIZED

Get your chapter's activities noticed by the entire Federation by submitting photos and stories to us here at VOYAGES.

From convention appearances to the humanitarian missions, your work deserves to be recognized, so be sure to send us the information on what you are doing to live the dream!

FEDERATION



Vince Ceraso, USS PIONEER, presented a gift, a Terran Empire enamel pin, to a (post-warp) group of combat enthusiasts, calling themselves Silvalorn, a colony of the Belegarth Medieval Combat Society. He initially began surveying the group and befriended them in February 2023, before my Federation enlistment. They were mighty grateful to, and sincerely thanked, the Federation for the thoughtful surprise!

ONCE MORE INTO THE BREACH

FEDERATION CHAPTERS IN BATTLE ZONES

SECTOR: ALPHA RISIAN

- *Julia D. Ree, reporting*

Southern California explodes in fire.

The skies over Southern California are normally a beautiful blue, punctuated with an occasional cloud and relentless sunshine. Summertime can be especially brutal when the heat combines with heavy winds. Add arson or negligence to the mix, and suddenly, fire will potentially threaten the entire Southern California basin. Potential turned into actual as temperatures soared into triple digits in early September.

Tensions were made worse as earthquakes were reported several days in a row. Southern California has been preparing for "The Big One" for many years. The disaster of fire, however, is something that many of us are not fully prepared to face.

On Thursday, September 5th, the first of multiple fires, the Line fire, began in San Bernardino county, exploding into a huge conflagration within a few hours. For many days, there was zero containment, as the fire spread to thousands of acres, threatening whole neighborhoods. The Line fire is currently at 34 percent containment with over 38,000 acres consumed. There is a suspect, accused of setting this and possibly other fires.



The Bridge fire began on September 8th, affecting the Angeles National Forest, as it made its way through the San Gabriel Mountains into San Bernardino County. As of Friday, over 52,000 acres had burned, with only 3 percent containment. The cause is under investigation.

A day later, September 9th, the Airport fire flared into a multi thousand acre blaze that moved over the hillsides from Trabuco Canyon, into Riverside County. As of Friday, only 9 percent containment had been reached, with over 23,000 acres burned. Crews working the area caused a spark, which started the fire.

A simple search can give you additional raw statistics on these three major fires, plus dozens of others that have sprung up. What Google cannot do is tell you the story of fear, determination, and discipline displayed by the individuals of our local ships, as they prepared to evacuate.

The Federation has historically been deeply involved in Southern California, sponsoring more than a half dozen ships, shuttlecraft and space stations. At least five were dangerously close to the most recent fires in Southern California, and although the threat seems to have lessened, it is not over quite yet.

Crews from the Zefram Cochrane, Ulysses, Firelace, Nathan Hale, and Shuttlecraft Dark Star were in the thick of evacuation orders. Some chose to stay, some to go, and while most have been given the official permission to return to their homes, one of our crew remains away from her home, due to extremely poor air quality. The whole of Southern California is dealing with poor air, and those with upper respiratory issues need to be extra careful.

Why would some choose to stay, risking such dangers? It is a known experience that when whole neighborhoods are evacuated, it brings out the more seedy individuals, determined to take what is not theirs. Local authorities are already stretched thin, and when a disaster plan does not include extra protection of vacant property, theft can occur. In fact, one of our evacuees experienced a partial break-in. It was only when the governor authorized disaster relief that added protections for neighborhoods could commence.

For those who evacuated, the challenge of finding a place to go for themselves, for their family, including their four-legged babies, was paramount. Add to that, what is it that you take? What are the things that are impossible to lose? How long will you be gone? What happens if you forget something, will you be able to return? All these thoughts run through ones already frightened mind.



For the rest of us, not in immediate danger, it's a waiting game, punctuated with massive amounts of information and nascent decisions, moving forward, to provide assistance in different ways.

The Risian Sector is determined to share our voice with the rest of the Federation. Our ships are not quite out of danger, but we have some important factors in our favor. The temperature has lowered. The winds are not as strong. Most of the mandatory evacuations have been downgraded to evacuation warnings. Many have been allowed to return home. Many fire fighters continue to be instrumental in working towards complete containment for the safety of all. We are nowhere near full containment, but it will happen.

In the meantime, evacuation centers are still open, and many still have to take advantage of them. Our skies are still filled with smoke and in some areas, ash. The Sun continues to be red. But except for those immediately near the burn areas, life goes on. Shelves continue to be stocked and traffic still gets snarled as people head to their jobs or home.

Of special note, World Central Kitchen has boots on the ground to help feed the displaced and First Responders. This organization may be a worthy charity to support.

Moving forward, the ships of the Risian Sector stand ready to help each other as we navigate toward a future that is safer.



Photos by Bill West and Danni Black

PRIDE ★ **SERVICE** ★ **HONOR**

ONCE MORE INTO THE BREACH

FEDERATION CHAPTERS IN BATTLE ZONES

SECTOR: ALPHA BAJORAN

- *Randolph Allen, reporting*

Hurricane Francine made landfall in southern Louisiana on Wednesday, September 11, 2024 around 5 PM CDT as a powerful Category 2 Storm. It started the week as Potential Tropical Cyclone 6 near the Mexico/Texas border. As hurricanes go, Francine was a system that defied forecasting. While it did stay to its normal track, at times the system stalled, made lateral movements easy before breaking down the next day into a remanent low.

This was supposed to be a day of remembrance for the fallen for 9/11. So while the rest of the country spoke about those were lost on the Twin Towers and the Pentagon, a Hurricane was making for Louisiana.

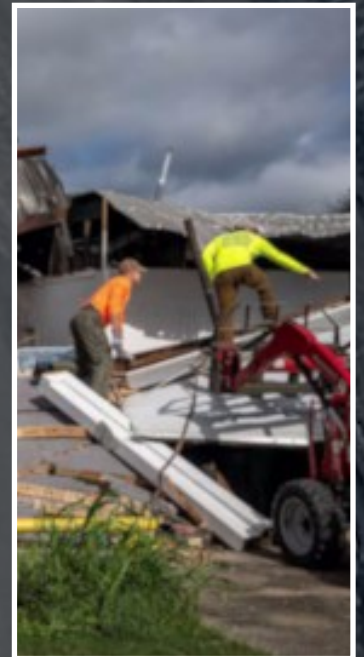
The storm caused tremendous wind and surge damage in both Terrebonne and Lafouche Parishes. The city of Houma, LA was especially hard hit and at the time of this writing was still without power, with many NGOs in the area already servicing those in need of a hot meal and place to rest from the clean-up.

Closer to New Orleans Metro area where most of the crew of the USS NEW ORLEANS (NFC-61000), it was Jefferson Parish, on the eastern side of the storm that took the brunt of the storm. It was also where most of the flooding occurred, as again drainage infrastructure tried to keep out with a downpour of 7 inches per hour. And while there was indeed flooding and power loss from downed branches and whole trees. Remarkably, there was little to no loss of life among the Chapter's complement. And those without power didn't have to wait long.

By Thursday, September 12, 2024, the storm was gone. Streets flooded by rain hours before had been drained and the damage was beginning to be surveyed. The city of Kenner, lost about 100 homes along the "dirty" edge of the storm, while those places closer to the center got the worse. It was only when Francine came onshore that it began to eat on dry air coming from Texas and powerful wind shear in the upper

atmosphere ripping apart the thunderstorms that rendered Francine almost impotent as tropical cyclone but remained a powerful supercell heading north rapidly losing strength.

As this article is being written, on September 14th, three days after Francine made landfall the city of Nashville, TN experienced rain from the storm. It fell heavily cross the area for about an hour before finally stopping. Francine had breathed its last breath.



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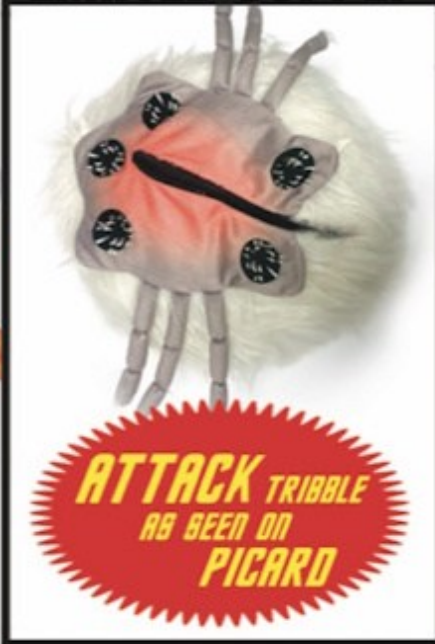
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