

## Interview with a Deputy Director of the Emergency Operations Center

JW indicates the interviewee

KF indicates the Dickinson College interviewer

JW: Yes. I basically coordinated most of the underground, right because most times I would be out there, um, ensuring that everything goes well in terms of the evacuation. Um, in the southern part, south of Belham, you know we had some difficulties in that there were some people who point blank didn't want to move, you know and um, the police and the different (incomprehensible word) were called in and you know um, we had some, there was some violent encounters with people. You try to move them it's a responsibility of the government to safe guard the population from danger and I think you know, we encountered some problems in that some of the folks they were very reluctant to move from the areas that they knew all along there. They built their lives in that particular area and they felt that we were or the government was trying to move them out from the area but they quote, unquote, didn't know the danger that was looming over their heads.

KF: What did you think of...What do you think of the evacuation shelters? What did...

JW: What do I think of the evacuation shelters?

KF: Uh huh...did you think they were good enough?

JW: Yes! Um, when we started out first we, as I mentioned before, we weren't as prepared, um, as we were for the last evacuations that we had and um, you yourselves have been privy to some of the shelters that we had and the conditions that they're in now. You know, we did not have that preparation early on so now with the help of the British government we were able to have these shelters better prepared and of course it is keeping in line with what we are trying to do in terms of comprehensive disaster management. It involves having the necessary shelters retrofitted, ...

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J.W. ...houses that were destroyed in the, um, in the southern part of the island and houses that were rendered uninhabitable, people had to come over on this side, restart their new lives, and then still have to pay mortgages. You know, so it was really, it has been really tough on a number of, of folks. Because just imagine trying to restart your life, trying to get accommodation, living quarters, and still have to keep in the back of your mind, you know, that you have to pay mortgage for a house that you have on, on the southern side and you can't access that house. You know, that's the kind of thing

that people had to deal with. And there are still some, some of them are still dealing with it now. Yeah so...