



# CLEAR OUT OR ELSE



STAFF PHOTO BY ALEX BRANDON

A Black Hawk helicopter rescues people in the B.W. Cooper housing development Wednesday in New Orleans as one man returns to his apartment. Police and soldiers dispersed across the city, coaxing remaining residents to evacuate, and officers suggested they soon would force them out. 'We have thousands of people who want to voluntarily evacuate at this time,' NOPD Superintendent Eddie Compass said. 'Once they're all out, then we'll concentrate our forces on mandatory evacuation.'

## Flow of crises ebbs for police

By James Varney  
Staff writer

With fewer fires and fewer arrests, New Orleans seemed surprisingly calm Wednesday, about as normal as a city overwhelmed by dead bodies, filthy floodwater, smashed glass and heavily armed military patrols could be.

"Right now New Orleans may be the single safest city in the United States," New Orleans Police Superintendent Eddie Compass declared, expressing a view not necessarily embraced by many of the estimated 10,000 people still living in the shattered city. "Right now, we're getting back to normalcy."

As evidence, Compass noted that there had been only three arrests overnight, a light crime-fighting evening by any standard and one that barely swelled the population of 171 inmates at New Orleans' makeshift jail in the Amtrak station.

The NOPD and the thousands of out-of-town soldiers and law enforcement officials may face a sterner test today when officials are expected to shift Mayor Ray Nagin's mandatory evacuation order into a higher gear.

Compass promised to use the "minimum force necessary" to remove residents, and privately many top

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STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

Gareth Stubbs naps next to a cache of weapons he and two neighbors collected to help them defend Algiers Point from looters.

## MAKESHIFT MILITIA GUARDS ALGIERS POINT

*They're armed to the teeth but haven't fired a shot*

By Susan Langenhennig  
West Bank bureau

Just after dusk on Tuesday night, with the rumble of helicopters and airplanes still overhead, Gareth Stubbs took his spot in a rocking chair on the balcony of an Algiers Point house, a shotgun, bottle of bug spray and a can of Pringles at his feet.

It was night No. 9 of his vigil, the balcony

turned into a makeshift watch tower, with five borrowed shotguns, a pistol, a flare gun, an old AK-47 and loads of ammunition strategically placed next to the blankets and pillows where Stubbs, Vinnie Pervel and Gregg Harris have slept every night since Hurricane Katrina slammed into Southeast Louisiana.

In the bedroom off the balcony, its lace curtains blowing through the open windows,

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## Evacuations mandatory in New Orleans

By Bruce Nolan  
Staff writer

Police and soldiers armed with M-16 rifles fanned out across the remaining high ground of a wrecked and flooded city Wednesday, ordering the last holdouts to evacuate in no-nonsense terms that promised consequences if they didn't.

The orders, delivered through screen doors and on stoops, flowed from Mayor Ray Nagin's Tuesday decision to clear the devastated city because of its multiple threats to safety -- from fire, polluted water and natural gas leaks.

Many holdouts told officers they were reluctant to leave, either because they feared refugee shelters, they did not want to leave their belongings or they believed they were safe where they were.

Officers indicated the time was nearly at hand when they would force citizens out, Police Superintendent Eddie Compass said.

He indicated officers and troopers were making one easy pass through the city, then would return meaning business.

"We have thousands of people who want to voluntarily evacuate at this time," Compass said. "Once they're all out, then we'll concentrate our forces on

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