

[21824001]



More likely , relief funds could be added to an omnibus spending bill that Congress is considering next week .

[21824015]

But it is n't just Washington 's relief dollars that are spread thin : its relief manpower also is stretched .

[21824017]

Mr. Clanehan says FEMA now possibly may have the heaviest caseload in its history .

[21824018]

To further complicate relief efforts , the privately funded American Red Cross also finds itself strapped for funds after its big Hugo operation .

[21824020]

" It just makes it a little rough when you have to worry about the budget . "

[21824021]

The Red Cross has opened 30 shelters in the Bay area , serving 5,000 people .

[21824022]

Twenty-five trucks capable of cooking food were dispatched from other states .

[21824023]

All the precise types of federal aid that will be sent to California won't be determined until state officials make specific requests to FEMA . agency officials said .

[21824024]

And in the confusion after the earthquake , " the information flow is a little slow coming in from the affected area , " said Carl Suchocki , a FEMA spokesman .

[21824025]

Still , some aid is moving westward from Washington almost immediately .

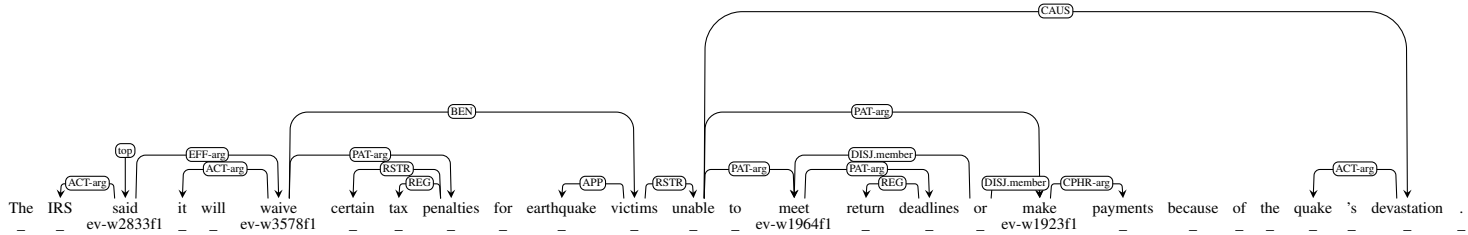
[21824027]

Additional housing vouchers and certificates will be made available , officials said , and some housing and community-development funds may be shifted from other programs or made available for emergency use .

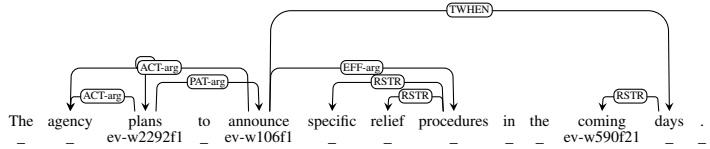
[21824028]

Another federal agency not normally associated with disaster relief - the Internal Revenue Service - moved quickly as well .

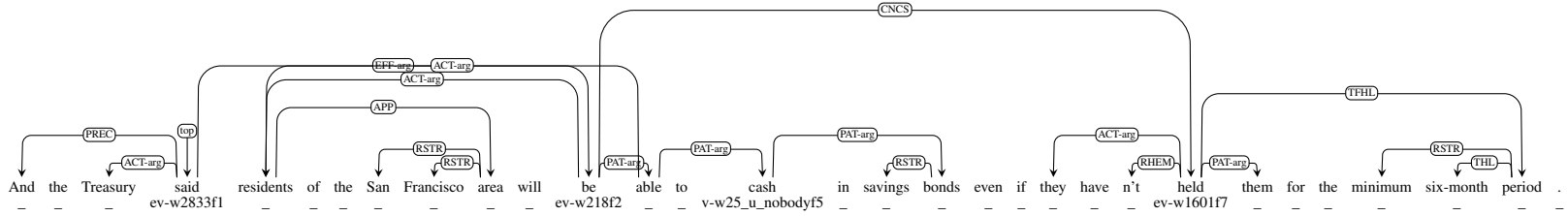
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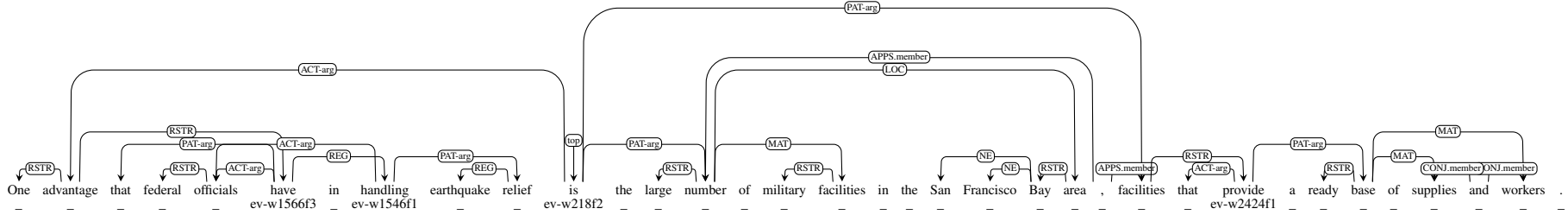
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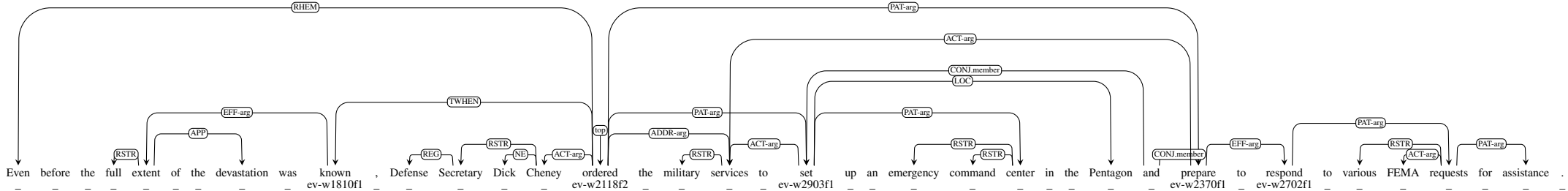
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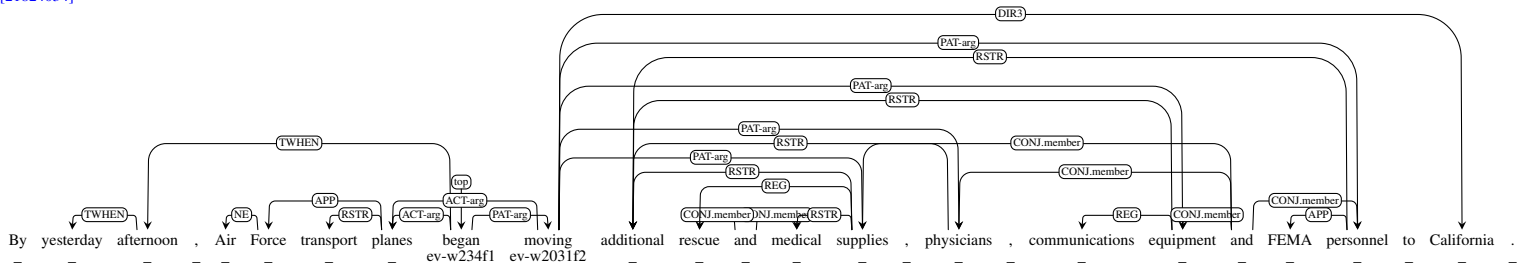
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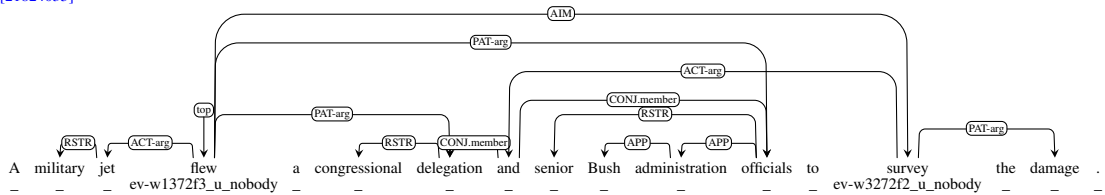
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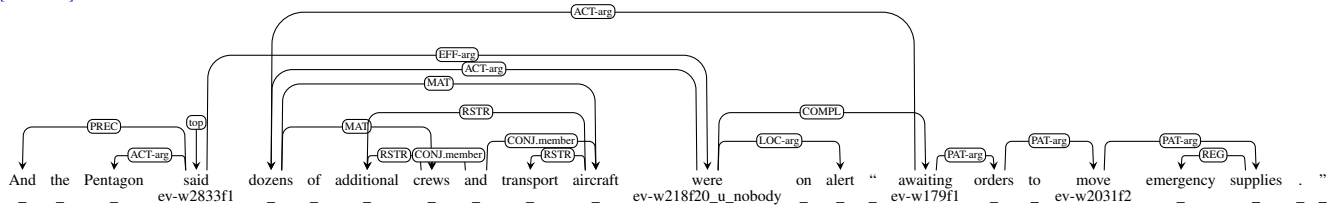
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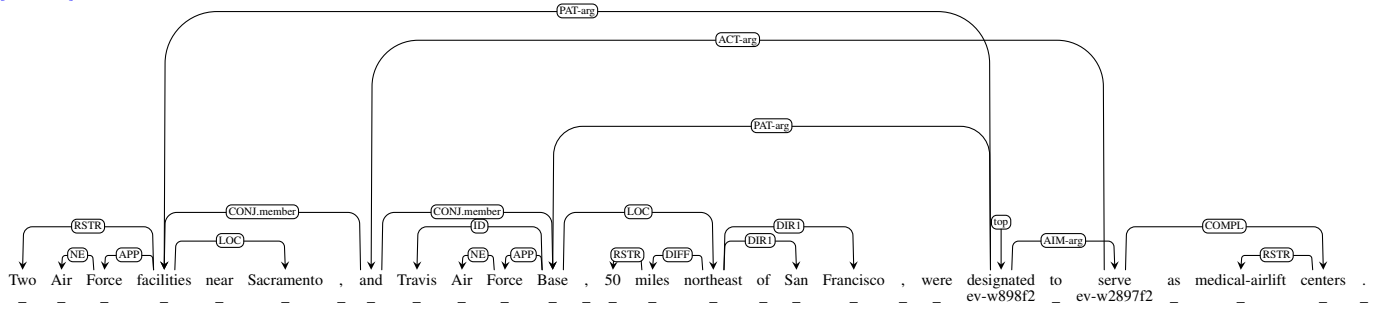
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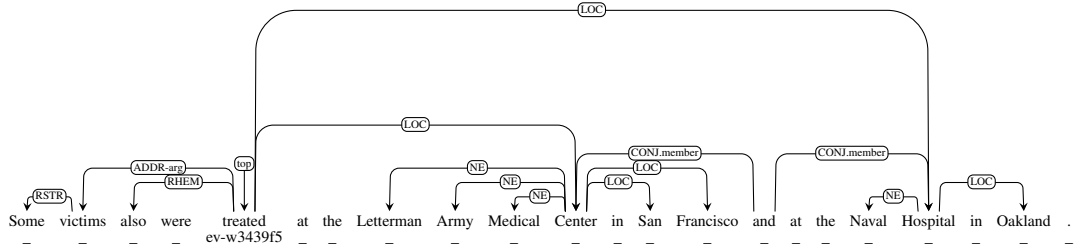
[21824036]



[21824037]



[21824038]



[21824039]

In addition , 20 military police from the Presidio , a military base in San Francisco , are assisting with traffic control , and a Navy ship was moved from a naval station at Treasure Island near the Bay Bridge to San Francisco to help fight fires .

[21824040]

To help residents in Northern California rebuild , FEMA intends to set up 17 disaster assistance offices in the earthquake area in the next several days and to staff them with 400 to 500 workers from various agencies . said Robert Volland , chief of the agency 's individual assistance division .

[21824041]

At these offices , earthquake victims will be helped in filling out a one-page form that they will need to qualify for such federal assistance as home-improvement loans and to repair houses .

[21824042]

And federal officials are promising to move rapidly with federal highway aid to rebuild the area 's severely damaged road system .

[21824043]

The Federal Highway Administration has an emergency relief program to help states and local governments repair federally funded highways and bridges seriously damaged by natural disasters .

[21824044]

The account currently has \$ 220 million .

[21824045]

And though federal law dictates that only \$ 100 million can be disbursed from that fund in any one state per disaster , administration officials expect Congress to move in to authorize spending more now in California .

[21824046]

To get that money , states must go through an elaborate approval process , but officials expect red tape to be cut this time .

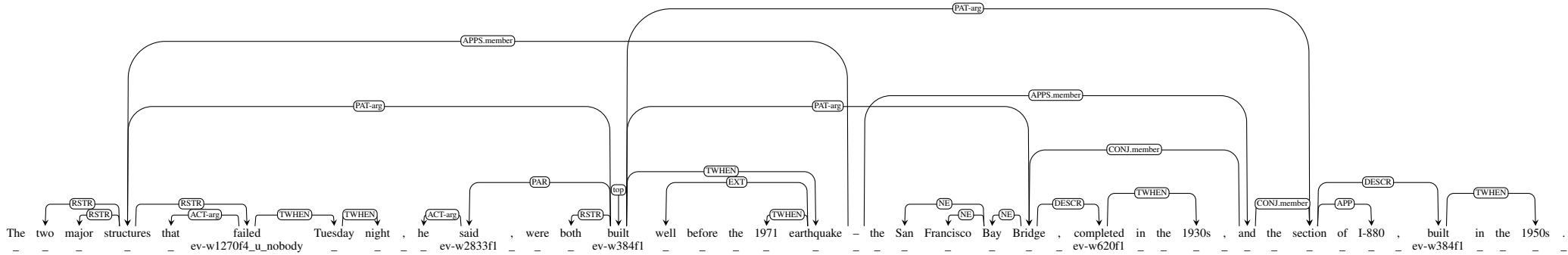
[21824047]

Keith Mulrooney , special assistant to Federal Highway Administrator Thomas Larson , also said that after the 1971 San Fernando earthquake in Southern California , the state set tougher standards for bridges , and with federal aid , began a program to retrofit highways and bridges for earthquake hazards .

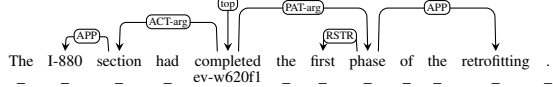
[21824048]

The first phase of the program has been completed , but two other phases are continuing .

[21824049]



[21824050]



[21824051]

