



## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

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### WebWatch

Division 8, 5NR

February 2009

#### A. ALL HANDS - Coast Guard Activity in Haiti

Admiral Thad Allen, Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard

To the Men and Women of the United States Coast Guard:

Exactly one week ago today, a little before 1700 EST, a violent earthquake devastated Port Au Prince, Haiti. Without waiting for tasking, Coast Guard men and women from all over the country made immediate preparations to assist the beleaguered Haitian people. The next morning, Haitians witnessed President Obama's pledge - "You will not be forsaken and you will not be forgotten" - become reality when the cutter **FORWARD** arrived with the rising sun as the first American asset on-scene. Amidst the devastation, **FORWARD** delivered damage assessments, critical command and control capabilities, and most importantly - hope.

I am incredibly proud of the performance of all our personnel during this challenging period and like you, my heart goes out to the Haitian people who have suffered so greatly. Coast Guard units were the first on-scene in Port Au Prince and have been working around the clock with our interagency partners to provide humanitarian assistance, evacuate U.S. citizens, and help the most seriously wounded.

On-scene, the cutters **TAHOMA** and **MOHAWK** quickly established a makeshift trauma unit with the Haitian Coast Guard and triaged hundreds of injured people.

**TAHOMA's** crew even delivered a baby boy from an injured Haitian woman on their flight deck and a second baby at their shore-side clinic. C-130 aircraft performed damage assessment flights and the cutter **VALIANT** conducted a port assessment of Cap Haitian to create another entryway for supplies that were backing up at the airport. The cutter **OAK** continues to survey Port Au Prince harbor and repair the primary pier to allow much needed supplies to flow directly into the city. Aircrews from Mobile, AL; Elizabeth City, NC; Sacramento, CA; Barbers Point, HI; Detroit, MI; and Jacksonville and Miami, FL are also assisting with over-flights and evacuations. Follow these links to view our Guardians in action (<http://coastguard.dodlive.mil/> and [www.d7publicaffairs.com/go/site/586/](http://www.d7publicaffairs.com/go/site/586/)).



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Supporting our forward operations have been thousands of Guardians working inside and outside of the Coast Guard. The Seventh District Commander has been leading the Homeland Security Task Force South East which is a key coordination point for the federal government's collective response and evacuation efforts. A joint FEMA-Coast Guard team has been deployed to Port Au Prince to support United States response operations being directed by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). We are also supporting U.S. Southern Command Joint Task Force Haiti with individual augmentees. Our Area Commanders have worked seamlessly to flow forces rapidly including moving the cutter **HAMILTON** through the Panama Canal from the West Coast. The Chief of Staff, exercising his mission support responsibilities, has skillfully integrated and deployed logistics elements demonstrating the maturation of our new support model. Here in Washington, our staffs have integrated with key partners including DOD, FEMA and USAID. I have worked with FEMA Director, Craig Fugate, in support of Secretary Napolitano and Deputy Secretary Lute at a number of White House meetings.

We continue to surge people and assets because we will have to sustain our response efforts in Haiti. **HAMILTON** and **LEGARE** will soon be on-scene pushing our total number of Guardians in theater to over 700. We are also recalling Coast Guard reservists to augment our humanitarian efforts and ensure maritime safety and security for relief supplies arriving in theater. Our immediate and sustained response illustrates the value of the Coast Guard's flexible command structure, ability to operate across the interagency and international spectrums, and the initiative of our people to take action. This is why the Coast Guard is so valuable to the American public and the global maritime community.

Our efforts have not gone unnoticed. Secretary of State Clinton commented "our Coast Guard has been unbelievable." At a press conference last week, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, ADM Mike Mullen stated "the Coast Guard was magnificent from day one. First, they were medevacing people literally within the first 24 hours. And I want to give them a great deal of credit for their response capability as well." Those comments are directed at all of you who executing or supporting our operations.

Many have questioned how the Coast Guard can do so much so quickly, and I simply reply: "This is what we do". Our Guardians are committed to protecting, defending, and saving without having to be told to do so. Along with all Americans, I am truly inspired by the Coast Guard men and women operating in theater, backfilling for



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deployed units, or providing the necessary support to make it all possible. As always, our Guardians are here to protect and ready to rescue at a moment's notice. That is who we are and why we serve.

I cannot describe it any better than a young petty officer assigned to **TAHOMA** in this email to his family:

"There is an eerie feeling in the air amongst our crew tonight. Those who remained shielded on the cutter today see in the eyes of those who went ashore what a major disaster can do to a nation. I have never seen so many grown men and women with tears in their eyes. Those who did go ashore experienced first-hand the severity of the situation.

I've been shielded today only talking over the radio to those who have seen it. Never once was there a question of professionalism in their voice. I remember in boot camp being told that the U.S. Coast Guard on the right side of our chest takes priority over our name. Today the men and women who went ashore wore coveralls without their names on them. All that was visible were the letters USCG.

Today was the first day I think I've truly been more thankful to be an American. Not because of our infrastructure or the freedoms given to us, but because as a country we will be there when a country of less fortune is in need. Haiti rarely exports anything to our country. They have no oil or major cash crop we use. But as a county we will stand together and put aside our different opinions of healthcare, war, or economy and help out those in need.

Right now we are taking it hour by hour, aftershock by aftershock, every little bit helps. I'm going to try and get some sleep, as I've already put in a solid 16 hours. Tomorrow will be longer."

Well said. Thank you and Semper Paratus!

### B. Earthquake in Haiti - Auxiliary response perspective

CHDIRAUX

1. The tragic earthquake in Haiti has mobilized an immense international response. The U.S. Coast Guard is, not surprisingly, at the forefront of this response. As Coast Guard Auxiliarists, the following questions are probably on your mind, and their accompanying answers are meant to help provide you with a brief snapshot of status and prospects.

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- a) *Is there any guidance regarding Auxiliary participation in the relief efforts?*

At this point, we know that the Homeland Security Task Force-Southeast was activated in the Coast Guard's 7th District, based in Miami, and is responsible for supporting U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) relief efforts in Haiti, under the direction of the Coast Guard's Seventh District Commander, Rear Admiral Robert Branham. There has been a preliminary data call for Auxiliary interpreter services and capabilities, but not a mobilization of them. They are basically in a stand-by status and are being coordinated, arranged, and monitored by the Auxiliary Director of Interpreter Support, Klaus Baumann. There are no other specific calls for Auxiliary mobilization at this time.

- b) *Should interested Auxiliarists just stand down and look to help as private citizens with the Red Cross or similar agencies, or should they be alerting our senior leadership to start consolidating lists of those interested?*

Auxiliarists should stand-by for further word in the event they are willing to respond and offer their services. The flip side of this is that specific requests for Auxiliary support must first be placed by Coast Guard operational commanders, which will most likely stem from requests originating in the Coast Guard's Seventh District. This does not preclude Auxiliarists, in their capacity as concerned citizens, from offering and/or providing their services through other organizations.

- c) *Certain skills and requirements (e.g. - linguists, etc.) will surely be required, along with the need to meet medical and physical requirements for any Auxiliary responders. As with past responses to major emergencies, will Auxiliarists be assigned to a particular agency (not as an Auxiliarist), and who will coordinate travel orders and reimbursements?*

We cannot predict if entities like the Disaster Assistance Coordinators (DACs), which many Auxiliarists served as under the employment of DHS during the Hurricane Katrina response a few years ago, will be implemented for this response operation. Notifications will be made if such entities are established and activated for this response operation. If Auxiliary services and capabilities are requested by the Coast Guard, the normal procedures and requirements for assignment to duty by an



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appropriate order issuing authority will remain in effect, and detailed guidance about temporary duty assignments (e.g. - issuance of orders and claim processing) will be issued by them.

2. It is crucial to recognize that this response operation has significantly different challenges than those posed by previous major emergencies like Hurricane Katrina. The location poses the greatest challenge. As a major response effort in a foreign territory compounded and devastated by this disaster, it is characterized by unique physical, environmental, and security conditions that must be, and will be, considered in the composition and coordination of Coast Guard response resources. Likewise, it will surely be a long and deliberate operation with potential opportunities for Auxiliary skills and capabilities in terms of direct response and equally valuable backfill of Coast Guard units in the future. Your concern, preparedness, and readiness for service in support of the Coast Guard are most heartily respected and appreciated.

### **C. Message from Secretary Napolitano: the Department's Response in Haiti**

Janet Napolitano, Secretary Department of Homeland Security

Dear Colleagues,

The great tragedy unfolding in Haiti has led to an outpouring of support here at home and around the world.

As a Department, we are moving rapidly to support the search, rescue, and relief efforts in Haiti. The U.S. Coast Guard, Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) are leading DHS actions to support the larger assistance effort.

Four Coast Guard cutters have arrived in Haiti, in addition to a variety of Coast Guard assets that were already in the area to support military air traffic control, conduct damage assessments and rescue people in need of assistance. FEMA continues to work closely with the State Department and USAID, who are leading the U.S. federal response, while coordinating the deployment of state and local Urban Search and Rescue Teams from across the country to Haiti. CBP has provided aircraft to support response efforts.



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The rebuilding process for the people of Haiti will undoubtedly be extremely difficult. As DHS employees, many of you are already contributing to the response effort. If you are interested in providing additional support to those in need, you can visit [www.whitehouse.gov/haitiearthquake](http://www.whitehouse.gov/haitiearthquake) to make a monetary contribution. You can also make a \$10 donation to the Red Cross simply by texting the word "Haiti" to the number "90999" from your mobile phone.

For individuals seeking information about family members in Haiti, the State Department has set up a toll free number, (888) 407-4747.

Thank you again for your service to DHS and to our Nation. Working together, our Department is making a difference for the people of Haiti during this time of tragedy.

### **D. Termination of all U.S. Loran-C signals**

IAW, the 2010 DHS appropriations act, the U.S. Coast Guard will terminate the transmission of all U.S. Loran-C signals effective 2000z 08 Feb 2010. At that time, the U.S. Loran-C signal will be unusable and permanently discontinued. This termination does not affect U.S. participation in the Russian-American or Canadian Loran-C chains. U.S. participation in these chains will continue temporarily in accordance with international agreements.

### **E. National Saltwater Angler Registry Opened**

BoatUS Membership eLine

1. New program, part of improved data collection system, to help protect our nation's ocean resources.
2. Saltwater recreational fishermen have long expressed concerns about the data used to estimate the effects of recreational fishing on ocean resources and the nation's economy. The National Saltwater Angler Registry, which launched on Friday, January 1, will help address that concern by providing a comprehensive list of the nation's saltwater anglers that will be used to improve surveys of fishermen. These surveys are used by NOAA scientists to assess the health of fish stocks and to estimate the economic contributions of anglers.
3. Many saltwater recreational fishermen will be required to register before fishing in, 2010. The registry opened for registrations starting Friday, January 1. But, if you have a state saltwater fishing license, you may already be part of the registry.

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"By registering, recreational anglers will make their catch count," said Jim Balsiger, acting NOAA assistant administrator for NOAA's Fisheries Service. "The National Saltwater Angler Registry is an important tool that will enable us to better estimate the health of marine fisheries so that we're able to preserve the pastime of recreational saltwater fishing for generations to come."

**F.** In New Jersey, there is much confusion regarding the specific requirements of this Salt Water Registration. The Recreational Fishing Alliance is stating that the registry will be required in New Jersey only if you fish more than 3 miles off shore (Federal Waters) or fish for species that live in salt water, but spawn in fresh water, such as striped bass and shad. Other interpretations of the regulations indicate that all New Jersey salt water fishermen must have the registration card on them at all times while fishing. Local Coast Guard representatives have been contacted for clarification on this regulation. This clarification may not come until the start of the 2010 fishing season.

**G. 2010 NATIONAL SCOUT JAMBOREE**  
CHDIRAUX

1. Rear Admiral Brian Salerno (CG-5, Assistant Commandant for Marine Safety, Security and Stewardship) is the Coast Guard Flag Sponsor for the 2010 National Scout Jamboree. Captain Len Ritter (TISCOM, Telecommunications and Information System Command) has been selected as the Task Force Commander and will lead the Coast Guard contingent at the Jamboree. Coast Guard active duty, reserve, Auxiliary, civilian, and retired personnel are authorized to participate in the Coast Guard support element for this event, as detailed below:
  - a. Who: Team Coast Guard members (active duty, Reserve, Auxiliary, civilian, retiree)
  - b. What: 2010 National Scout Jamboree
  - c. Where: Fort A. P. Hill, VA
  - d. When: From 26 July to 4 August 2010
  - e. How: By standing up the CG 2010 National Scout Jamboree Task Force



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2. Auxiliarists who are interested in being part of the Coast Guard 2010 National Scout Jamboree Task Force must fill out and electronically submit the questionnaire:  
<http://www.uscg.mil/auxiliary/CGNSJTF-QUESTIONNAIRE-2010.pdf> to the Auxiliary coordinator, Mr. William "Bill" Reisa at [cgnsjtf@msn.com](mailto:cgnsjtf@msn.com) (phone (317) 887-3236) with copies to the Flotilla Commander and designated point-of-contact in the office of the Director of Auxiliary.
  
3. Key Logistics Element Managers positions that need to be filled immediately:
  - a. Administration
  - b. Merit Badges
  - c. Sea Scouts
  - d. Joint Sea Services Areas
  - e. External Coast Guard Forces
  
4. Task Leaders are also needed for the following tasks:
  - a. NORTHCOM Liaison
  - b. Transportation Manager
  - c. Communications Officer
  - d. Berthing/Meals Coordinator
  - e. Head Merit Badge Counselors
  - f. Sea Scout Liaison
  - g. Display Coordinator
  - h. Honor Guard Coordinator
  - i. Recruiting Exhibit Coordinator
  - j. CG Band Coordinator
  - k. Joint Services Liaison
  
5. Permissive/non-reimbursable orders are authorized, and an ALCOAST with further details will follow. Please contact Mr. Reisa if you have questions about the program.