



Vol. I, Issue 11

THE RESPONDER

Telling the Joint Task Force-Haiti story

a call to duty
March 20, 2010

Under Sec. of the Army visits JTF-H

Spc. William R. Begley

11th PAD

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti- Under Secretary of the Army Joseph W. Westphal visited Haiti on March 18 to witness firsthand the devastation caused by the earthquake Jan. 12 and the progress of humanitarian assistance provided by Joint Task Force-Haiti.

Accompanied by Lt. Gen. Ken Keen, commander of Joint Task Force-Haiti, Westphal visited the 377th Theater Sustainment Command and Aerial Port of Debarkation area where they were met by Maj. Gen. Luis R. Visot, commander, 377th TSC. Westphal had the opportunity to meet with the troops and see how the 377th TSC provides daily logistical support to the entire joint task force for missions and operations in Haiti.

Westphal also met with Soldiers of the 2nd Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment at their White Falcon Camp, where he had lunch with the junior enlisted troops. As Westphal joined the Soldiers in eating a Meal, Ready-to-Eat (MRE), he explained to the Soldiers one of the reasons for his visit.



Under Secretary of the Army Joseph W. Westphal visits a rubble removal site in Port-au-Prince during his visit March 18 to speak with members of Joint Task Force-Haiti. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. William R. Begley/11th PAD)

“I wanted to get a little closer to you and find out what you’re doing here,” Westphal said.

While in Haiti, Westphal was able to see many of the internally displaced persons

camped in Port-au-Prince and also visited one of the rubble removal sites. It was there that Westphal truly was able to appreciate

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Customs required for redeployments

by Spc. Jake Marlin

11th PAD

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti- Service members leaving Haiti must clear customs before getting on the plane home.

Military Police from U.S. Army South, 65th MP Company, and 209th MP Company are trained to complete customs inspections for redeploying service members.

Some of the things prohibited by law are:

- Alcohol
- Anything from the country of Cuba
- Wood that is untreated or contains bark

-Unpolished shells or rocks

If personnel are flying on civilian aircraft, the normal federal regulations apply.

Some things not allowed on Civilian flights are:

- Fluids over 3 ounces
- Knives, Gerbers, or multi-tools must be in check baggage.

Remember, when redeploying home after completing the mission, check baggage for any items that may not pass customs inspection.

If you have any questions about specific items, please contact your local customs agent.



A U.S. Soldier inspects a box of items returning home after a deployment. When packing their bags, Soldiers need to keep in mind the list of items they can not take home with them. (U.S. Army photo)

“The Game’s Afoot”

by Col. Richard Gary Moore
JTF-Haiti Chaplain

So how are you enjoying your island vacation? Our mission is to help people who can not pay us back. I have ridden through the streets and byways of Port-au-Prince and am moved by the smiles, courtesies and the feistiness of the Haitian people. Haitian drivers have to be the best drivers in the world – they really look out for one another, for the children as well as the slower moving old folks.

On one of these intercity purposeful wanderings I saw a sign that read, “We need help....” It was followed by some Creole sentences, but the message was received.

Then I looked up to the surrounding hills above the organized disruptions of the city and was reminded of one of my favorite messages in the Bible, Psalm 121, a short, but vitally personal song of the

heart: “I lift my eyes to the hills - where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord the Maker of heaven and earth.”

So where do you go when you need help...to a friend, to your thoughts, to a place? Your Chaplain’s encouragement is for you to go first to the living God. Do a “shake down cruise” with the Author and Finisher of your faith or just hold forth until you get your follow on guidance!

We who are here in a foreign land to help others whose

language we do not speak should first have the personal capacity to receive help so that we are habituated with the confidences that connect with people who ask for help.

You and I and the wonderful people of Haiti were made for such an occasion as this – to ask the living God’s help for the grieving, the injured, the displaced, the jobless, the orphans, the workers, and the leaders. As William Shakespeare in his play “Henry V” relates; “The game’s afoot.” Are you in?

JTF-Haiti Worship Services

LSA/FOB	WEEKDAY	SERVICE	TIME	LOCATION
LSA DRAGON (JTF HQ)	Sunday	Protestant	0800	Embassy Flag Pole
	Sunday	Catholic Mass	0900	Embassy Flag Pole
LSA HOPE	Sunday	Contemporary Protestant	1100	Hope Chapel
	Sunday	Gospel Protestant	1900	Hope Chapel
	Wednesday	Bible Study	1800	Hope Chapel
	Wednesday	Catholic Mass	1930	Hope Chapel
	Friday	Non-Denominational	1800	JLC 377th
	Saturday	Catholic Mass	1500	JLC 377th
	Sunday	Protestant	1030	JLC 377th
	Sunday	Catholic Mass	1130	JLC 377th
Airfield (APOD)	Sunday	Protestant	1000	Air Force Chapel
	Sunday	LDS	1330	Air Force Chapel
	Saturday	Catholic Mass	1300	Air Force Chapel
FOB WARRIOR	Saturday	Protestant	1500	MWR Tent
	Sunday	Spanish Mass	1900	MWR Tent
FOB WHITE MAIN	Sunday	Protestant	1630	FOB Chapel
	Monday	Catholic Mass	1630	FOB Chapel
SPOD RED BEACH	Sunday	Protestant	0800	Chapel
	Monday	Catholic Mass	1830	Chapel



THE RESPONDER
Telling the Joint Task Force-Haiti story

A CALL TO ACTION

The Responder is an electronic newsletter published every Wednesday and Saturday for the Soldiers, Sailors, Coast Guardsmen, Airmen and Marines of JTF-Haiti.

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Under Secretary of the Army Joseph W. Westphal talks with Soldiers of the 377th TSC during his visit to Haiti. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. William R. Begley/11th PAD)

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the situation.

“Until you really see it, see it on the ground, and talk to people, it’s hard to really grasp it from the news and the reports that we all read,” he said.

Westphal concluded his visit by meeting with Soldiers at the Logistical Support Area Dragon, the operational headquarters of the joint task force. Greeted by Maj. Gen. Simeon G. Trombitas, deputy commander, Joint Task Force-Haiti, Westphal was given the

chance to see their capabilities and how operations are coordinated and controlled by the headquarters.

After visiting with the Soldiers of Joint Task Force-Haiti, Westphal was very impressed with the accomplishments of the entire operation.

“We have so many Soldiers committed to this effort and making a big difference here,” he said. “In small ways, we are setting an example for how things can be accomplished.”



Osias Jean-Marc, a native Haitian, cuts the hair of Maj. Enrique T. Vasquez. Three Haitian barbers have been hired to keep the troops groomed during deployment. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. William Begley/11th PAD)

LSA Dragon provides locals with jobs

by Spec. William Begley
11th PAD

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti-Just because troops are on a deployment does not mean that they can relax their grooming standards. Good grooming habits help to maintain a positive self image and can make them feel good about themselves.

Troops at LSA Dragon can maintain a clean cut look without leaving the compound.

Three Haitian barbers were hired to help cut the hair of the troops stationed at LSA Dragon.

Sonthonax Blaise has a wife and child that his new job helps to support.

“It’s a good job to have,” said Blaise. “We have good pay and a lot of generous customers.”

Blaise and his family were displaced by the quake and are living in an internally displaced persons camp next to LSA Dragon.

Jean Rene Francklin’s and Osias Jean Marc’s houses collapsed as well, and they are thankful for the opportunity to earn some money to help their families.

“Thanks to America, I have a good job that I have been looking for forever,” said Jean Marc.

Blaise wishes the American military would stay. “We would like the U.S. military to stay,” said Blaise. “They give us jobs and hope.”

This is just one of the ways Operation Unified Response is creating enduring partnerships with the Haitian people.





Check out
Joint Task
Force Haiti
on the web.

<http://www.flickr.com/jtfhaiti>
<http://twitter.com/JTFHaiti>
<http://www.facebook.com/JTFHaiti>

Engineer teams assist Joint Task Force- Haiti

by Pfc. Jasmine Slaton
11th PAD

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti- Service members and civilians from the Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC), deployed from Norfolk, VA, hold very rewarding jobs here in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

The team assesses buildings and bridges around the area for damage caused by the Jan. 12 earthquake. They determine whether homes, businesses, and bridges are safe to occupy or drive.

"I've spent 15 days walking the streets of Turgeau, going house by house, building by building, trying to get people out of the tent camps and back to their homes if their homes were not damaged in the earthquake," said Kathryn Gallagher, a civilian engineer with NAVFAC.

The NAVFAC team's mission is also focused on helping with the transition of JTF-Haiti responsibility.

"This process is going exactly where we wanted to go. The Haitians themselves, followed by all these other countries and organizations, are taking control. And that's exactly



Sgt. Maj. Harlan Hardy, JTF-Haiti, assesses the railing of a bridge in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. The bridge suffered little damage in the earthquake that destroyed much of the country Jan. 12. (U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Jasmine Slaton/11th PAD)

what we wanted to happen," said Navy Cmdr. Scott Shaulis, of the Naval Facilities Engineering Command.

"The Haitian engineers are being trained to do assessments. Some picked it right up and it almost seemed as though they were training us," said Shaulis.

The transition includes getting the Haitians back into their homes if they are structurally

safe. Currently, many of the people of Haiti are in tent camps around the area.

Shaulis explains, "One of our missions is to decongest the camps. Either move people back to their homes or to other sites to prepare for the upcoming rainy season."

In assessing the homes, engineers found most buildings aren't up to U.S.

structural codes because there is not a formal code that the Haitian engineers follow when constructing their buildings.

"If the people felt safe enough to sleep there before the earthquake and there is absolutely no damage they should feel just as safe after the earthquake," said Gallagher.

"Some people are just afraid. I know if I survived a 7.2 earthquake and saw my neighbor's home collapse, I would be afraid to return to my home as well," said Shaulis.

Sgt. Maj. Harlan Hardy, deployed from U.S. Army South, used the example of comparing the horror the Haitian people have faced since the earthquake to the people in direct connection to Ground Zero during 9-11.

"I can only imagine," Hardy said. "I think something this devastating could take a toll on anyone."

This team is a part of the first wave of personnel that arrived in Haiti and will soon be returning home.

"I appreciate the others that will succeed us," Shaulis said. "It will be a lot of good, rewarding work to help get this country back on its feet."

Bataan Sailors return to revitalized Haiti

By MC1 Daniel A. Bristol
USS Bataan Public Affairs

GRAND GOAVE, Haiti (NNS) -- Sailors aboard the multipurpose amphibious assault ship USS Bataan (LHD 5) and embarked Marines from the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit returned to the city of Grand Goave, Haiti, March 12, a town they helped in the immediate aftermath of the Jan. 12 earthquake.

Grand Goave became Bataan's adopted town when the ship arrived off the coast Jan. 18. Sailors spent nearly a month clearing rubble, distributing aid, building shelters and providing medical care in Grand Goave before

turning the mission over to non-governmental organizations last month.

"It looks like a town's coming back to life," said Aviation Ordnanceman 1st Class Howard King. "The first day it was like a ghost town amongst the ruin and rubble. Now, you really have to look to find where the rubble is, where the broken buildings are. The people of this town are getting out and taking back what was once theirs ... they're starting to get their life back to normal."

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Sailors from the multipurpose amphibious assault ship USS Bataan (LHD 5) unload boxes of donated relief supplies in Grand Goave, Haiti. (U.S. Navy photo by MC2 Julio Rivera)

JTF-Haiti gets new IG



The JTF-Haiti Inspector General (IG) Office has completed their transition and the new JTF-Haiti command IG is Lt. Col. Patrick Budjenska. Budjenska and his assistant IG, Sgt. 1st Class Sheila Langsam, are deployed from U. S. Army South, Ft. Sam Houston, Texas. Their office is located in LSA Dragon adjacent to the Aid Station.

Soldiers may reach the IG office by phone at DSN 91+ (413) 254-8029 or by email at patrick.budjenska@us.army.mil or sheila.langsam@us.army.mil.

The Command IG serves as an extension of the commander's eyes, ears, voice, and conscience. Anyone that is a member of JTF-Haiti is allowed to visit the IG and seek assistance.

319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment heads home



Lt. Col. Jeffry Sanborn, commander, 2nd Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division leads his paratroopers onboard an aircraft bound for Fort Bragg, N.C., on Mar. 18. The Black Falcons redeployed from Haiti after spending more than two months assisting the humanitarian aid and disaster relief mission as part of Operation Unified Response. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Seth Laughter/2BCT PAO)

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The day was mostly about visiting the town and the population the crew had become such a big part of, but Sailors also brought along medical supplies, food and a few boxes of toys for the kids.

Bataan's medical team made it a point to stop by the Lifeline Christian Ministries Mission, where they had spent so much time caring for earthquake victims.

Hospital Corpsman 2nd Class Casey Goodman, who treated medical patients at Lifeline many times before, said the number of patients being seen in the clinics has been greatly reduced over the last few weeks.

Bataan is still operating off the coast of Haiti, with Sailors and Marines providing oversight and serving as liaisons in a number of areas west of Port-au-Prince while the government of Haiti and non-governmental

organizations work to return to pre-earthquake capacities.

"Everybody understands the mission at hand," said King. "It's a hard mission. It's a marathon mission, not a sprint, and we are here for the long haul. After completing a seven-month deployment and then coming out here for a relief mission, it's hard, it's taxing, but it's also rewarding. We have the capability to help people in need, that is rewarding in itself."

As the Sailors and Marines walked two-by-two back through the center of town, the residents lined the cobblestone streets to wave and show their appreciation.

Bataan has been on station off the coast of Haiti since Jan. 18, supporting Operation Unified Response, an international commitment to provide relief for the victims of Haiti's devastating earthquake.

15th FMCO brings cash to the fight

by Spc. Jake Marlin
11th PAD

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti- A service member is walking down the street in Port-au-Prince, and he sees a painting that would look perfect hanging on his living room wall. Thanks to the 15th Financial Management Company, this service member has cash in his pocket so he can take this piece of art home.

The 15th FMCO, deployed from Ft Sill, Okla. is here in Haiti at several of the U.S. life support areas to make sure U.S. service members have cash in their pockets by providing casual pays.

"Casual pays that we are giving to the troops are helping to boost morale here in Haiti," said Sgt Penny Cook, 15th FMCO.

Casual Pays aren't the only job the FMCO has. Their other responsibilities are to pay out government contracts and support pay agents for the various units scattered throughout Haiti. The finance office at LSA Dragon pays out an average of \$500,000 a week to support contracts.

"The contracts we are paying out to local contractors are helping to boost the Haitian economy," said Cook.

LSA Dragon is not the only place in Haiti service members can go to get a casual pay or to resolve pay issues. The 15th FMCO also operates an office at LSA Hope.

Soldiers of the 15th FMCO know that their mission here in Haiti has an impact on more than just dollars and cents.

"Finance is a combat support service," said Staff Sgt. Arturo Solano, "We help the Soldiers do their job to complete the mission. We make sure Soldiers have money in their pockets for quality of life products, and it improves the morale of the force."

POSTCARDS FROM HAITI



A United Nations Soldier holds hands with a young Haitian boy living in Cite Soleil on March 16, while on patrol. The UN manages security patrols in internally displaced persons camps as part of their stabilization mission in Haiti. (U.S. Army photo by Pvt. Cody Barber/11th PAD)



A group of boys have a good time playing dominoes. Since the earthquake on Jan. 12 there hasn't been much time for recreation. (U.S. Army photo by Pvt. Cody Barber/11th PAD)



Haitians go on with their daily lives in downtown Port-au-Prince. The Haitian people were quick to get back on their feet and get back to what they did before the disaster. (U.S. Army photo by Pvt. Cody Barber/11th PAD)



A mother and her two children sit in front of their home in Cite Soleil waiting for their next customer to purchase what goods they have for sale. (U.S. Army photo by Pvt. Cody Barber/11th PAD)