



Haiti Relief Support Update – Delivering Capabilities

“The U.S. Navy helicopter took him away. Appears he will make it after extensive loss of blood. He will be alive and ready to fight another day. Without the USS Carl Vinson...and that Navy helicopter, MEDEVAC would not happen...the circumstances are right now that the U.S. military is here and able to do certain things including help save this man's life.”

– Bill Hemmer, Fox News, Reporting from Port-Au-Prince, Haiti, Jan. 15

As Navy ships and personnel arrive and with more on the way, significant humanitarian assistance and disaster relief capability is and will be provided to relieve human suffering in Haiti. More than 3,600 Navy personnel are on the ground and at sea in the vicinity of Haiti currently supporting relief efforts.

Delivering Capabilities

- [USS Carl Vinson \(CVN 70\) arrived](#) off the coast of Haiti. The aircraft carrier's speed, flexibility and sustainability make it ideal to carry out relief operations.
 - Carl Vinson delivers robust airlift capability with 19 helicopters and C-2 *Greyhound* logistics aircraft. The ship provides aviation support, air traffic control and command and control capability.
 - Carl Vinson's medical capability includes medical expertise, equipment and facilities – specifically: 51 hospital beds, three operating rooms and hospital services capability.
 - The ship can produce 35,000 gallons of water per day and has relief supplies on board for delivery.
- USS Higgins (DDG 76) is off the coast of Haiti providing afloat logistical services. [USS Normandy \(CG 60\)](#) and USS Underwood (FFG 36) are enroute to assist. They bring additional helicopters and small boat support.
- Aerial surveys by Navy P-3 *Orion* aircraft are providing valuable information for assessment, rescue and relief support. Additional air capability is being provided by C-2 *Greyhound* logistics and E-2 *Hawkeye* early warning and control aircraft supporting operations from ashore.
- USS Gunston Hall (LSD 44) and the [Bataan Amphibious Ready Group \(ARG\)](#), including USS Bataan (LHD 5), USS Fort McHenry (LSD 43) and USS Carter Hall (LSD 50), are underway en route to Haiti. The Bataan ARG will embark Marines from the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit.
 - These ships serve as command and control and aviation platforms. They bring airlift capability with 14 helicopters and helicopter fueling.
 - Sea-to-shore transport will be crucial as the wharf at Port-au-Prince has collapsed into the harbor. Air cushion landing craft, conventional landing craft and small boats bring dock service capability.
 - The Bataan ARG provides hospital service capability, disaster relief transport and distribution, and the capability to produce 22,000 gallons of water per day.
- USNS Comfort (T-AH-20) gets underway Saturday. Comfort will deliver mass casualty medical support with medical staff and crew of more than 700 and current capability of 250 hospital beds, four operating rooms and medical relief supplies.
- Sailors from Combat Camera, Maritime Civil Affairs, Maritime Security, Expeditionary Logistic Support and [Seabee units](#), as well as other Navy divers and engineers bring diverse capability including assessment, construction, security, civil affairs and logistical support.
- Military Sealift Command ships are enroute to provide replenishment, port surveys and salvage.

Key Messages

- The U.S. Navy is swiftly mobilizing available resources to assist interagency and multinational efforts in relieving human suffering in Haiti.
- The initial focus is to concentrate on saving lives while providing first responder support to people of Haiti.
- The Navy's assistance reflects our nation's compassion and commitment to those impacted by this tragedy.

Facts & Figures

- USS Carl Vinson (CVN 70) loaded 19 helicopters, personnel and equipment in fewer than eight hours.
- Approximately 2,360 Sailors and 2,000 Marines are part of the Bataan Amphibious Ready Group and the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit.
- For the latest stories on Navy relief efforts in Haiti: <http://www.navy.mil/haiti/index.html>