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THE RESPONDER

Telling the Joint Task Force-Haiti story

a call to duty
March 31, 2010

Radio host visits Haiti

by Pvt. Samantha D. Hall
11th PAD

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti- Delilah, one of America's top female radio hosts, visited Port-au-Prince on March 27 and stayed the night at LSA Dragon. Delilah reaches out to more than eight million listeners in over 200 stations throughout the U.S. and Canada.

Delilah came not only to witness firsthand the devastation caused by the Jan. 12 earthquake, but to also hand-deliver nine duffel bags of clothes, toys, diapers, and supplies to several local orphanages. Delilah's bags were full of goods donated by people from her church and through her own purchases made out of pocket.

"It's much more hopeful than I had anticipated, there's much more peace and a sense of unity that I didn't expect," she said. "Everybody seems to be working together flawlessly. It seems like a really well-oiled machine that has come together to save the lives of the people of Haiti and start the rebuilding process for the future."

Delilah spent her first morning in Haiti visiting orphans and handing out her gifts,

with the help of Lt. Col. Amber Cargile, deputy public affairs officer, JTF-Haiti, and a few others.

"I thought it was a deeply moving experience," Cargile said. "On one hand, it's sad to think the children are orphans, on the other hand it was clear they were well cared for and loved. They seemed to have a lot of joy and hope."

Delilah divided up her nine bags of gifts and, with the help of others, handed the items out personally to the children.

"I'm sure the children will benefit greatly from the medical supplies, clothing and toys," Cargile said. "It was a gesture of friendship from the American people, Delilah and all her listeners."

Once leaving the orphanage, Delilah was given the opportunity to take an aerial tour of Port-au-Prince with Lt. Gen. Ken Keen, commander, JTF-Haiti.

General Keen is always working and trying to help those of Haiti, she said, and it was an honor and privilege to speak with him.

Delilah also took time in the evening

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Delilah, American radio-show host, holds a five-month old child at a local orphanage March 27. The radio host brought with her nine bags of goods which she donated to several orphanages. Delilah was here to visit Port-au-Prince and see firsthand the recovery mission troops have been assisting with. (U.S. Army photo by Pvt. Samantha D. Hall/11th PAD)



Gen. Douglas Fraser, commander, United States Southern Command, arrives in Port-au-Prince, Haiti and is greeted by senior leaders of JTF-Haiti on March 26. Fraser met with Maj. Gen. Floriano Peixoto Vieraneto, commander, MINUSTAH, at the U.N. headquarters. (U.S. Army photo by Pvt. Cody Barber/11th PAD)

General Fraser visits Port-au-Prince

by Pfc. Jasmine Slaton
11th PAD

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti- Gen. Douglas M. Fraser, commander, U.S. Southern Command (USSOUTHCOM), visited Port-au-Prince, Haiti, to discuss the progress of Joint Task Force- Haiti, with Maj. Gen. Floriano Peixoto Vieraneto, commander, MINUSTAH. Fraser and Peixoto along with a handful of other dignitaries met at the MINUSTAH Headquarters in Port-au-Prince to talk about security plans and the multi-

national military environment.

Gen. Fraser is responsible for all U.S. Department of Defense security operation in the 45 nations and territories of Central and South America and the Caribbean, an area of 16 million square miles.

"I am pleased to hear that with so many different militaries here-- the UN, American, Canadian, [etc.], that we are all coming together to get the people of Haiti back on their feet," said Fraser.

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Redeployment Health Guide for Service Members & their families

REDEPLOYMENT MEDICAL REQUIREMENTS

Medical requirements for redeployment include:

- A post-deployment blood sample.
- Completion of a DD Form 2796 (Post-Deployment Health Assessment Form).
- Completion of a DD Form 2900 (Post-Deployment Health Reassessment Form) 3 to 6 months after return.
- A tuberculosis (TB) skin test at the time of redeployment and again in 3 months.
- Continuation of chloroquine, doxycycline, or mefloquine for 4 weeks after return if you were in an area with malaria and were started on anti-malarial drugs.
- Notification to your healthcare provider that you have traveled outside the United States if you need to seek medical care for illness in the next year.

REUNION WITH YOUR LOVED ONES

Returning home can be every bit as stressful and confusing as leaving. It is essential that you arrange to spend time with your family and loved ones soon after you return from deployment. You will find it helpful to resume family routines and personal spiritual routines that are effective, but proceed slowly in reestablishing your place in the family. Be prepared to make some adjustments.

Service Members

- Take time to listen and talk. Slowly reestablish good two-way communications with each family member.
- Make time for each child and for your partner.
- Support the good things your family has done.
- Remember, romantic conversation can make sexual intimacy easier for both of you and your partner.
- Manage money carefully.
- Do not overdo the "reunion parties."

Partners

- Avoid a busy schedule.
- Go slowly in making adjustments.
- Remind your partner that he or she is still needed.
- Discuss division of the family chores.
- Stick to a budget until you have time to talk about money matters.
- Make time to be alone with your partner.
- Be patient in rebuilding your relationship.

Children

- Slowly resume the old rules and routines.
- Be available to your child, with time and emotions.
- Let the child be the first to renew the bond.
- Expect some changes in your child.
- Focus on successes; limit criticisms.
- Encourage your child to tell you everything that happened while you were away, and help your child to understand why you went away.

EXPECTATIONS FOR SERVICE MEMBERS

- Even though you may want to talk about your experiences, your family may not.
- Roles may have changed with regard to basic chores and household duties.
- Face-to-face communication may be difficult after a separation.
- Closeness may be awkward at first.
- Children grow up during separations; they may seem different.
- Partners become more independent, have assumed many different responsibilities in your absence, and may need more space.
- You may have to change your outlook on priorities in the household.

EXPECTATIONS FOR PARTNERS

- Service members may have changed.
- Service members may feel "closed-in" or claustrophobic and may need space to feel comfortable.
- Service members often feel overwhelmed by the everyday noise and confusion of home life.
- Service members may need time to resume sleeping patterns.
- Service members may feel left out and need time to adjust.
- Service members may feel hurt when small children are slow to hug them and show emotions.

WHAT CHILDREN MAY FEEL

- Babies less than 1 year old may cry when you hold them; toddlers may not know you at first.
- Preschoolers 3-5 years old may be afraid of you.
- School-aged children 6-12 years old may demand more of your time than other children.
- Teenagers may seem moody, and act as if they do not care.
- Some children may be anxious, fearing your expectations of them.
- Children may respond with a display of symptoms of minor illnesses.
- Children may be torn by loyalties to the parent who remained at home.

RESOURCES

- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: <http://www.cdc.gov/>
- Military One Source: 24/7 toll-free numbers to assist with your family-related issues. From the U.S., (800) 342-9647; outside the U.S., dial appropriate access code, then (800)3429-6477; <http://www.militaryone-source.com>
- Hooah 4 Health: <http://hooah4health.com>
- Tricare national and regional toll-free contact numbers: <http://www.tricare.osd.mil>
- U.S. Army Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine: <http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil>

For the full health guide see http://chppm-www.apgea.army.mil/deployment/Guides/RedeploymentTriFold/Service_Members_And_Their_Families_5May06.pdf



THE RESPONDER
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A CALL TO ACTION

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Haitian fire fighters receive new equipment

by Sgt. 1st Class Debra Thompson
11th PAD

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti—In the aftermath of the earthquake that shook Haiti to its core, Haitian fire fighters launched into action. They began search and rescue operations alongside their international partners.

One thing became clear; the Haitians needed more equipment in order to do their job effectively. There are only a few fire departments in Port-au-Prince and before the quake they were not prepared to handle the fire fighting needs of the people.

With the help of the U.S. Air Force, Protect the Force, and International Firefighters Assistance, the Port-au-Prince fire department is one step closer to becoming self sufficient. Clay Williamson, president, Protect the Force, has worked tirelessly to raise

funds for new equipment for Haitian firefighters. He feels his efforts are well worth the struggles it took in order to get the equipment into the hands of the firefighters.

“It feels great. It’s been quite a challenge getting this much equipment here but we are extremely happy to be able to help,” said Williamson.

One of the biggest concerns for the fire fighters right now is the internally displaced persons camps. A lot of the shelters are made of tarps or cloth, and are surrounded by pits used to burn trash. Without the proper equipment, the Haitian fire fighters would have a difficult job putting out large fires in the camps.

“The fire hazard in the displaced persons camps is extremely high,” Williamson said. “It’s important they are trained and equipped to go



A group of Haitian fire fighters wait to receive new equipment March 26. The fire fighters received items such as new oxygen tanks and protective clothing. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debra Thompson/11th PAD)

out, do inspections and put out fires if they occur.”

Williamson recognized that even with the new equipment already in country, it isn’t enough. He identified their additional needs as training, protective equipment, and facilities.

“The only fire department outside of the Port-au-Prince airport that is supposed to service the city was completely destroyed in the earthquake,” said Williamson. “Even if it was operational, it isn’t enough to cover the entire city.”

Williamson worked with the U.S. Air Force to facilitate handing out the donated equipment and is grateful for all their help.

“Thanks for the tremendous support from the Air Force,” said Williamson. “Without their support, along with the UN fire department, none of this would have been possible.”

Staff Sgt. Colin Cathrew, an

Air Force fire fighter from McGuire Air Force Base, New Jersey, jumped at the opportunity to help train the Haitian fire fighters. According to Cathrew, he’s always been the helpful type throughout his life. So, doing a humanitarian mission is an awesome opportunity to help those who he knows will appreciate what they are doing.

“With us being in the fire department and helping the other Haitian fire fighters with not only the gear, we are providing them also with the training,” Cathrew said. “So not only do they have the gear they need, they also have the knowledge to use it. It’s very fulfilling.”

Both Cathrew and Williamson agree that this is an ongoing mission to help the Haitian firefighters get back on their feet and become a self-sufficient and reliable fire department.



Clay Williamson, president, Protect the Force, and Airmen sort through the boxes of firefighter gear. Haitian fire fighters received new gear after it became evident they were undersupplied to deal with the earthquake aftermath. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Debra Thompson/11th PAD)



A Soldier from 2nd Bn, 325th Airborne Infantry Regt, 82nd Airborne Div., fights for the ball during a soccer game against the Brazilian U.N. forces on March 27. The Soldiers and the Brazilians have worked together conducting security and humanitarian aid missions since the January 12 earthquake. (Photo by SPC Jake Marlin/11th PAD)

White Falcons take on Brazilian allies in soccer game

by Spc. William R. Begley
11th PAD

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti—Brazilian Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division Soldiers to a day of sporting events which included soccer, basketball, and tug-of-war at the United Nations BRACC-2 compound March 27.

"The 2nd Brazilian Battalion invited us to come up here and spend the day with them, so we brought our company commanders to visit with their company commanders and our paratroopers to visit with their Soldiers," said Lt. Col. David Doyle, battalion commander, 2nd Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division.

The trash talking started early, with several Brazilians predicting a large upset. And to no one's surprise, the Brazilians won the soccer game 7-1 as they showed the mastery they possess at soccer by displaying touch, skill, spacing, and excellent communication.

"It's definitely clear which country plays soccer as their national pastime," Doyle said.

An experienced soccer player, Spc. Eric Skahan, infantryman, B Co., 2nd Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment enjoyed the competition against the Brazilian team.

"It was fun. It was a good experience for those of us who enjoy the game of soccer," said Skahan.

While the defeat in soccer was somewhat expected, the Airborne Soldiers hoped to rebound in the basketball game.

"Our basketball team is pretty much unstoppable," said Doyle.

Unfortunately, the Brazilians did not have enough players to make a team so the event turned into a pickup game with just a couple of Brazilians playing with the Americans.

The Americans were determined not to leave without a victory. Since their plan to dominate at basketball fell through, that left one event. After a 100-foot long rope was laid out, the tug-of-war event soon got under way. The Brazilian team was out early warming up with their shirts off in an obvious attempt to intimidate the American team.

Though the Brazilian tug-of-war team looked impressive, the American Soldiers showed what they can accomplish when

put to the test. Systematically, they defeated the Brazilians with a great show of strength and teamwork.

After the friendly competitions were completed, the day ended with a plentiful luncheon hosted by the Brazilian Soldiers. Although they were rivals earlier in the day on the playing field, the Soldiers relaxed and reflected upon the partnership developed during their cooperative efforts in Haiti.

Additionally, the day was a culmination of a two-week exchange of information between the Brazilian Soldiers and Doyle's team of commanders, said Doyle. The units have been working together distributing food and bringing medical assistance to the people in internally displaced persons camps around Port-Au-Prince.

One Brazilian who sees the great job that the Brazilians and Americans are doing together is Lt. Col. Eduardo Martins, liaison officer, MINUSTAH, the United Nations security force.

Martins is grateful for the opportunity to work with the Americans. Martins and MINUSTAH have also been

working jointly with Doyle and 2nd Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment providing security for humanitarian assistance missions.

"For me it's a great opportunity," Martins said. "Americans must be proud of the job that they are doing here."

Doyle considered himself very fortunate to be teamed with the Brazilians.

"The Brazilians served in Haiti before and bring a great level of appreciation for the mission at hand," he said. "They showed great kindness inviting the Soldiers to their duty station for the day."

"We appreciate their hospitality," said Doyle. "They have been incredible hosts."

After a fun day playing soccer in the hot sun, Spc. Logan Blacklock from the 2nd Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment summed the day up nicely.

"The spread was amazing; the barbecue chicken and rice was excellent," said Blacklock. "I had a great time playing soccer, watching the tug-of-war, the hospitality was excellent."



Eight Soliders received a Commanding General Coin of Excellence at LSA Dragon on March 28 by Lt. Gen. Ken Keen, commander, JTF-Haiti. The Soldiers were trained and certified as U.S. Customs Agents in Haiti and served as inspectors for the past two months. The Soldiers came from several different units and specialties. (U.S. Army photo by Pvt. Samantha D. Hall/11th PAD)

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"The relationships we've built through partnering in the region has paid a particularly high return on investment in Operation Unified Response."

Security is becoming a problem within some of the communities but leaders do not see it continuing after the transition period, currently in effect.

"The Haitian people are good people," Peixoto said. "They are hard working and willing to learn. When I first arrived, there was some looting going on, but if they had another way, I'm positive they would have acted differently."

Joint Task Force-Haiti will continue to adjust their force to mission requirements and retain only those

forces necessary to meet humanitarian aid support required by the Government of Haiti.

Fraser continued his visit with a helicopter ride around Port-au-Prince. He saw several of the internally displaced persons camps and the outlying area of Port-au-Prince.

"The country is beautiful," said Fraser, "just as beautiful as the people in it."

Just as quickly as he arrived Fraser boarded his plane on the way to Washington D.C., but not before thanking Peixoto.

"It's been a pleasure working with you," Fraser said. "Thank you for everything that you've done, and will continue to do for this country."

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to visit with Soldiers at FOB Falcon and take some song dedications to the Soldiers' families back home.

"It was an honor to be able to be in the midst of heroes and to talk with them and share a little bit of their experience in Haiti," Delilah said.

While at FOB Falcon, Delilah enjoyed a typical hot meal of turkey, rice and a biscuit, while sitting down to talk with some troops.

Master Sgt. Ranny Lewis, 4-78th Civil Affairs, said his wife was crazy about Delilah and she listened to her all the time.

"Each time my wife came in the car, she changed the radio station to 104.3; it's all about Delilah," Lewis said.

Lewis stood in line for an interview with Delilah and an autograph for his wife.

"I'm excited because she's my wife's idol," he said.

"It's just beautiful to see her in person. It has shown me Delilah is not only reaching out to people of the U.S., but she is concerned and cares about the troops overseas and what we're doing to bring a better quality of life to Haiti."

Some Soldiers didn't know about Delilah through their spouse listening, but from childhood memories.

"I am thrilled she is here," Pfc. Daniel Hardee, 2-325th, 82nd Airborne, said. "My dad listens to her and it's good to see her here, supporting the troops. I always heard her when I was growing up."

After a full day's worth of activity, Delilah spent the night at LSA Dragon with the Soldiers and returned to the U.S. the following morning.

"Hopefully I'll be able, through talking with General Keen and Amber and others, to take back vital information on



Delilah, American radio-show host, speaks with Soldiers at FOB Falcon on March 27, thanking them for their relief efforts here in Haiti. Delilah visited Port-au-Prince to see the devastation from the earthquake and the efforts of the troops in the recovery process. (U.S. Army photo by Pvt. Samantha D. Hall/11th PAD)

how people can help because that's what everyone wants to know; how can I help; what can I do," Delilah said. "And by

being here and going to the orphanages, I'll be able to go back and say here's how you can help, here's how you can

POSTCARDS FROM HAITI



JTF-Haiti's senior enlisted advisor, Sgt. Maj. Louis Espinal, USMC, looks out of a U.S. Army Blackhawk helicopter over Port-au-Prince on March 27. (U.S. Air Force photo by Lt. Col. Amber Cargile)



A young boy plays with a stuffed animal on March 27. Children at a local orphanage in Port-au-Prince were given small stuffed animals, sweets and other donated items after Delilah's visit to Haiti. (U.S. Army photo by Pvt. Samantha D. Hall/11th PAD)



After using green paint to mark a home as safe to live in, a Haitian building inspector looks to the next home he must inspect in the Martissant district of Port-au-Prince March 26. There are currently 160 Haitian building inspectors employed by the Ministry of Public Works, Transport and Communications (MTPTC) who have been inspecting, on average, 1,700 buildings a day since March 15. The Haitian building inspectors were trained by Haitian engineers who were, in turn, trained by members of the U.S. Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) and Miyamoto International, a UN Operations for Project Services consultant, on how to properly inspect buildings for damage in the wake of the Jan. 12 earthquake. (U.S. Army photo by Capt. Adam Hallmark/11th PAD)



Maj. Gen. Simeoen Trombitas, deputy commanding general, JTF-Haiti, takes a moment out of his visit to the port on March 28 to lift some weights. Soldiers living at the port created the weights to stay in shape while deployed. (U.S. Army photo by Pvt. Samantha D. Hall/11th PAD)