



## Haiti Relief Update – The Voices of Leadership

*“From the moment we got the word, our Navy has been leaning forward. Our Sailors and civilians have thrown themselves into this relief effort with a commitment that is just so much a part of who we are.”*

– Adm. Gary Roughead, Chief of Naval Operations

As the Navy is responding to this crisis, leadership has remarked on the character, capabilities and capacity being brought to bear in support of the people of Haiti.

### President of the United States – President Barack Obama

- “We stand united with the people of Haiti, who have shown such incredible resilience, and we will help them to recover and to rebuild.”
- “It is an enormous challenge to distribute this aid quickly and safely in a place that has suffered such destruction. That’s what we’re focused on now – working closely with our partners: the Haitian government, the United Nations, and many organizations and nations – friends from Argentina and France, from the Dominican Republic and Brazil, and countries all around the world.”

### Secretary of State – The Honorable Hillary Rodham Clinton

- “We saw the arrival of the USNS Comfort...that adds important capacity to our relief efforts. Already, patients are being taken on board via helicopter, and treated. The Comfort adds to what is one of the largest international rescue and relief efforts in history...There are significant challenges – devastated infrastructure, limited transportation options, security concerns – but we are making real progress every day.”

### Secretary of Defense – The Honorable Robert M. Gates

- “As long as 2 million people in Haiti are still struggling to get food and water, fuel and medical care, it would probably be a mistake for anyone to say they are satisfied with the level of effort. That said, it is hard for me to say what more the United States could make available or how we could make it available faster to deal with the tragedy there.”
- “I think the way we have been able to respond is indicative of our preparedness to deal with this sort of thing. I mean, to get the number of ships and the number of people and the supplies forward as quickly as we have, I think, speaks to the capability of the military.”

### Secretary of the Navy – The Honorable Ray Mabus

- “This global reach and responsiveness of our forces was brought home to me last night after I learned about the earthquake off the coast of Haiti. Within hours of that event, the Navy had made plans to provide assistance should we be called upon by the President to do so. In fact the first ship, the first asset, to be in Haiti was a surface ship, a DDG that was in the vicinity. Naval forces, surface forces, stand ready every day to respond to whatever crisis there is, wherever it is around the world.”

### Chief of Naval Operations – Admiral Gary Roughead

- “The disaster we are dealing with is almost unimaginable. The folks we have on the ground there are doing just incredible work in amazingly tough circumstances.”
- “Right now, what we are doing is responding to the most urgent needs that are there...We are looking at ways that we can provide immediate relief, provide the medical capability that is required, provide the mobility that we can provide with our helicopters and also get some of the basic services back on line again.”

### Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces – Admiral John C. Harvey, Jr.

- “I could not be more proud of our Sailors who acted on the first report, leaned forward, and were able to get their ships underway quickly to be a part of our nation's relief efforts. Many of our Sailors deployed on a moment's notice without a known end date. I am also very mindful of the burden we've placed on their families and appreciate their sacrifices as we act to provide this disaster relief.”

For the latest information on the Navy’s support of relief efforts in Haiti, visit: [www.navy.mil/haiti](http://www.navy.mil/haiti)