



Vol. I, Issue 19

# THE RESPONDER

Telling the Joint Task Force-Haiti story

*a call to duty*  
April 19, 2010

F  
A  
R  
T  
H  
E  
W  
E  
L  
L



L  
T  
G  
K  
E  
E  
N

*Lt. Gen. Ken Keen, commanding general, JTF-Haiti, has had boots on the ground since Jan. 12's devastating earthquake. Now, several months later, he redeployes home and says goodbye to the troops assiting in Operation Unified Response.*

As I leave Haiti and turn over command of JTF-Haiti to Maj. Gen. Sim Trombitas on April 18, I want to say thanks and express my deepest appreciation for all that each of you has done for the people of Haiti.

I had the honor and privilege of working side-by-side with all our U.S. military services; Ambassador Ken Merten and the US Embassy team; United States Agency for International Development's Office of Response Coordination led initially by Ambassador Lew Lucke and now by Chris Milligan; the United Nations Peace Keeping Forces from 18 nations led by Brazilian Maj. Gen. Floriano Peixoto; hundreds of nongovernmental organizations like the Jenkins-Penn Haiti Relief Organization led by Sean Penn; the Government of Haiti leaders from President Preval, Prime Minister Bellerive, to all his ministers; and numerous community leaders in displaced persons camps and local mayors.

I believe no one can come to Haiti and leave unchanged. I know I have certainly been personally and professionally affected by what I saw and experienced since Jan. 12, 2010.

I can't help but look back to that January day when life seemed to stop. I saw death, suffering, pain, sadness and fear. I saw things that I will never forget. Today, I see courage, resiliency, and determination. I saw it in the camps and in the markets. I saw it

in the faces of the vendors selling mangos. I saw it in the artists who show off their paintings to passers by. And I saw it in Haiti's leaders, with whom I met with regularly. I saw hope all around Haiti.

Many Haitians realize that the catastrophe also holds opportunity, a glimpse of hope to rebuild Haiti better. When I looked at the children's faces, I saw it. It's in their eyes and smiles. They hope to one day go to school so they can become doctors, engineers and teachers. They have hope that their fathers will find work to provide for their families. They have hope that one day they will live in a house instead of a tent in a camp. The children of Haiti have hope because of the overwhelming response of the world, a response led by America and the U.S. military.

I am extremely proud of the efforts of our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and Coast Guardsmen as well as the many DoD civilians who have sacrificed and given their all to this noble mission. You can all look back on this experience with pride and satisfaction knowing you saved lives and gave hope to the people of Haiti.

Thank each of you for your service to our nation and the people of Haiti.

*-Lt. Gen. Ken Keen*

# “The Ethics of Reciprocity”

by Col. Richard Gary Moore  
JTF-Haiti Chaplain

In the 1920s and 1930s, Rev. Bob Childress served as Presbyterian Pastor of the Buffalo Mountain area in Floyd and Carroll counties in southwestern Virginia. A story in the book, “The Man Who Moved a Mountain” by Richard Davids, depicts early one Sunday morning when Preacher Childress was rumbling his Model A Ford to one of his six churches, ‘ol George, the community never-do-well, stumbled from the tree line onto the road. The Preacher stopped and surprised George with a crisp, “Hello George!” Not in such good humor, George grumbled some words under his breath. “Come, go with me to church this morning,” Childress asked the man who apparently had been sipping moonshine most of the night before. George replied with surprising directness, “Not with all those hypocrites,

no thanks!” The wise minister replied, “That’s OK George, one more hypocrite won’t hurt us.” This kindhearted response touched scruffy ‘ol George... so he got in the rickety Ford and went to church that morning.

Doing to others as you would have them do back to you is a powerful life ethic. This ethic is found in all the major cultures as far back as ancient China.

The kind act that considered the person instead of reacting with a momentary, “Get out of my face,” response had lasting impact on ‘ol George! You may remember a kind word, a compassionate action or even someone’s persona that has touched you...that has opened you up ...changed a thinking attitude. The source of the kindness or challenge may have never known the impact in your life. Just one question though, as you look back what fills you most – a big pay check, a lot of things, important people ... or will it be on the lines of, “I still like people and they still like me?”

## Security lights placed at IDP camps

by Spc. William Begley  
11th PAD

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti-Gas powered security lighting for internally displaced persons camps was installed at various locations through out the Port-au-Prince area April 14.

The generator lighting rigs were purchased by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The purchase came in response to reports of gender-based violent crimes in several of the IDP camps. The hope is that by installing these lights, violent crimes can be mitigated.

Army Maj. Jon B. Tipton, provost marshal, JTF-Haiti, helped with coordinating the movement and placement of the 15 lighting sets at four different IDP camps.

Lights were placed at Corail Cesselesse, Petionville Golf Club, Ancien Aeroport Militarie and Terrain Acra.

“I take solace in the fact that what we’re doing today could prevent a child or woman from being raped,” Tipton said. “If I help prevent one gender-based violent crime, I’ve done my job.”

Army Capt. James Holley, anti-terrorism officer, JTF-Haiti, aided Tipton in the logistics of the generator movement and placement.

“We’ve found that when there are lights present and functional in a camp, women and children tend to feel safer,” Holley said. “Also, the local police are more willing to patrol [the area] and criminals are less likely to act.”

The security lighting systems will be maintained by the



Soldiers unload a gas powered security light at an internally displaced persons camp. The camp is one of several to receive lights as a result of recent reports of violence. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. William Begley/11th PAD)

communities in which they were placed.

After a successful day of making sure the lighting systems were delivered, started up and functional, Holley voiced his satisfaction.

“It’s an awesome feeling when you can see and be

part of something constructive being done,” Holley said. “It makes you sleep a little better at night.”

Hopefully, with the addition of security lighting, the Haitian people living in these camps will sleep a little better as well.



**THE RESPONDER**  
Telling the Joint Task Force-Haiti story

*a call to duty*

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

Commander JTF-Haiti  
Command Senior Enlisted Advisor JTF-Haiti  
JTF-Haiti Public Affairs Officer  
JTF-Haiti Public Affairs Senior Enlisted Advisor

Maj. Gen. Simeon Trombitas  
Command Sgt. Maj. Gabriel Cervantes  
Col. Eduardo Villavicencio  
Sgt. Maj. Rick Black

Responder Staff:  
Editor  
Layout/Design  
Sgt. 1st. Class Debra Thompson  
Pvt. Samantha Hall

The editor can be reached at The Responder office located in the LSA Dragon sustainment tent, by DSN phone: 413-254-8007 or by email: JTFHPAOCI@CORE1.DJC2.MIL

This newspaper is an authorized publication for the members of Joint Task Force-Haiti. Content of The Responder are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by the U.S. Government, or the Department of Defense. The Responder is an unofficial publication authorized by Army Regulation 360-1. Editorial content is prepared, edited and provided by the Public Affairs office of Joint Task Force-Haiti.

The Responder is an electronic newsletter distributed by the JTF-H PAO. All photos are Department of Defense unless otherwise credited.

# Fire Fighter Challenge ignites JTF-Haiti competition

by Capt. Jose R. Emperador  
377th TSC Public Affairs

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti- The Firefighter Challenge, a timed race through a fire fighting skills-based course sponsored by the 24th Air Expeditionary Group, provided a morning of tough competition for Joint Task Force-Haiti service members April 17.

Two-person teams moved through 10 challenging skill points throughout the race which included a ladder climb, a simulated litter carry, a wood chop and the use of a high pressure fire hose.

Event organizer, Air Force Master Sgt. Bradley T. Beaty, 24th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, said the skills race, which took him one week to put together, generated a high degree of interest. Beaty said he expected about 10 teams to sign up but interest was double the estimate.

He said there were 20 teams of U.S. service members as well as six non-competing teams of Haitian professional firefighters who wanted to test their skills and endurance on the course. Beaty credits his team of Airmen with helping him develop the course which required imagination.

"I've put on similar competitions but without all the actual fire-fighting equipment," said Beaty. "There's an actual piece of training equipment for the wood chop called the "Keiser block" and a sled which we had to build ourselves for the competition."

The race winners were from the 65th Military Police Company (Airborne) deployed from Fort Bragg, N.C. Spc. James M. Murray, and Spc. Joseph C. Dorman, said that they always like to participate together in similar events when given the opportunity for the competition.

"We get involved in every competition that comes by. [We] do it for fun and to mentally escape the things we deal with every day," Murray said. His team took first place with a winning time of 4 min., 48 sec.

"Together, we're pretty good and I push myself to try to keep up," Dorman said. "We participate to challenge each other and if I do good, he does good. If he does good, I do good."



Spc. James M. Murray, 65th Military Police Company (Airborne), Fort Bragg, N.C., part of a two-man team that won the Firefighter Challenge, powers through the sled pull portion of the event April 17 at a U.S. military camp in Port-au-Prince. Murray and fellow MP teammate bested 19 other Army and Air Force teams during the skills/endurance based competition. (U.S. Army photo by Capt. Jose R. Emperador/377th TSC)

The fire-fighting themed competition's only all-female and joint service member team, consisting of an Airman and Soldier, said they were eager to get in the competition although they didn't know their team would be the only one representing their gender. Army Spc. Esther C. Prescott of the 602nd Area Support Medical Company (ASMC) deployed from Ft. Bragg, N.C. said they were definitely not intimidated by competing males.

"I just wanted to have some fun and kick some butt," Prescott said. "I didn't know we would be the only females out here... it was a challenge but we were definitely ready."

Her race partner, Senior Airman Stephanie A. Walker, 24th Air Expeditionary Group deployed from March Air Force Base, Calif., said the competition was "more

challenging than I thought it would be but it was fun."

The day's events also included demonstrations from U.S. Air Force firefighters as well as Haitian Firefighters.

Senior Airman Aaron Guillen, driver, 24th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, and his crew chief, Staff Sgt. Will Hock, both demonstrated how to properly and safely navigate through the course.

Both firefighters, however, did it with full gear including helmet, air mask and tank, fire retardant coat, pants and boots—a condition not required of the race participants. Guillen also said the competition was a welcomed break.

"We're out here to have a good time and burn off some steam," Guillen said. "It's a good, friendly competition within the joint task force."

Haitian members of the airport's fire department also demonstrated how to properly control a broken and unsecured charged line which is a fire hose pressurized with water.

Once the water flow was turned on, the unsecured 100-foot hose flung around wildly. A Haitian firefighter, also in full gear, demonstrated how to jump on the base of the line and crawl his way up to the uncontrolled end to finally secure it.

Beaty says events like the Firefighter Challenge give his team a welcomed break.

"All these guys helped with the recovery at Hotel Montana and we worked in the University of Miami's hospital tent near here. We've also worked with the Haitian Airport Firefighters," Beaty said. "Firefighting is the same no matter what language you speak. It's been great."

Maj. Gen. Simeon Trombitas, commanding general, JTF-Haiti, presented carved stone prizes created by a local Haitian artist.

"When there's danger around most people run the other way," Trombitas said. "Firefighters and military police run towards it."

In addition to first place, both the second and third place prizes also went to the 65th Military Police.



Members from Coast Guard Base Support Unit Seattle hold up a large cutout heart sent by 4th grade students at Talbot Elementary School in Renton, Wash. The class adopted the unit by sending letters and treats as a way of saying thank you for their assistance during Haitian relief operations. (U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Tara Molle)

## Letters for Haiti

by Susan Blake  
U.S. Coast Guard Atlantic Area

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti- On Tuesday, Jan. 12, a devastating 7.0 magnitude earthquake struck near Port-au-Prince, Haiti. In its wake thousands of people were left dead and more than one million were left homeless. The Coast Guard was one of the first to arrive in Haitian waters with relief support and supplies. The devastation would require support from around the world and the Coast Guard nationwide.

Thousands of miles from Haiti, in Renton, Wash., Jaymi Fox, 4th grade teacher at Talbot Elementary School, received word from her student, Paige Crothers, that her dad was being sent to help.

Paige's dad, Chief Petty Officer Tim Crothers, a storekeeper at Base Support Unit Seattle, was informed

that he was being deployed for an unknown amount of time in support of Haitian operations.

Tim Crothers would be part of a team of Coast Guard members sent to Miami to manage the thousands of people and supplies sent for humanitarian relief.

With a Coast Guard wife, mother and daughter in her class, Fox felt that she, too, needed to lend a helping hand, along with 30 other little hands.

"Tim was sent to Miami literally within a few days of the earthquake," said Angela Crothers, mother of Paige Crothers and a parent helper for the 4th grade class. "Paige's teacher asked if the class could adopt his unit for Valentine's Day and send thank you's for what the Coasties were doing."

Fox's idea turned out to be extremely well received by not only the class but by the school and the parents as well.

"The kids were totally excited when I told them about adopting the Coast Guard unit for Valentine's Day," said Fox. "The parents were so overwhelmingly supportive."

With the help of Angela Crothers and Paige, Fox would get all of the information she needed about Crothers' unit and go to work right away.

Over the next few weeks ideas floated around on what the class wanted to do for Tim's unit. It was decided that the kids would send 'care packages' containing treats and letters for each Coast Guard member.

Parents had brought in ingredients to make several delicious delights that would accompany the handwritten letters from the children.

With stations set up around the classroom, everyone went straight to work.

"We made chocolate chip cookies, Muddy Buddies, caramel corn and a few other goodies that week," said Fox.

"I sent Muddy Buddies to the Coast Guard," said Adrian Amador, one of Fox's students. He explained that they are sweet snacks made with cereal, chocolate and sugar.

"We ended up sending two huge boxes of goodies, treats, letters and a huge cut out heart signed by the class," said Angela Crothers.

Throughout the process, the class was very curious about what was going on in Haiti.

Fox explained that she tried to keep information about the disaster on a positive note. The kids were fully aware of what had happened but graphic details were left out.

Fox would go into great details about the relief efforts from not just the Coast Guard but from the other services and organizations who rushed to help the millions of people desperately in need.

**see LETTERS on p. 5**

# Notre Maison is our house, too

by Lt. Col. Edward M. Grice  
Chaplain, 377th TSC

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti - Notre Maison Orphanage is now the 377th's house to visit as a unit. After evaluating a number of orphanages in and around the Port-au-Prince area, the recommendation given to Maj. Gen. Luis R. Viscot, commanding general, 377th Theater Sustainment Command/Joint Logistics Command-Haiti, was that the unit would officially adopt and support the Notre Maison Orphanage.

The first visit by Soldiers of the 377th changed hearts for both the Soldiers and the handicapped children of the orphanage.

"This has been a life altering event for me," said Staff Sgt. Malachi Gee, support operations, 377th TSC. "The time I spent there, intermingling with the children and staff,



Many orphanages through out the Port-au-Prince area have been "adopted" by troops assisting in Operation Unified Response. The children benefit from the visits and troops are able to get a break from the stresses of their missions. (U.S. Army photo by Pvt. Samantha D. Hall/11th PAD)

made me realize that it wasn't about myself. It was about giving back."

Presently, Notre Maison houses about 40 children ranging from infancy to pre-teen ages. Each of them has some kind of physical or mental handicap. The JLC-Haiti service members' presence at the orphanage was an

immediate benefit, as children beamed with excitement.

"Many of the kids just wanted to be picked up and talked to, or they wanted us to sit next to them and hold their hand, or color with them in their coloring books," said Navy Cmdr. Douglas MacKenzie, Defense Logistics Agency officer in charge, JLC-Haiti.

Others were equally touched by the visit.

"Visiting Notre Maison was very fulfilling with a mixture of sadness and joy," said Lt. Col. Joseph Mirabin, officer-in-charge deployment redeployment coordination cell, JLC-Haiti. "It represented my family, church, work, community and the country that wants to express our heartfelt love and blessing."

Mirabin is familiar with natural disasters. He was directly affected by the devastation that Hurricane Katrina left in the New Orleans area in 2005.

The visit to the orphanage was a moving event and one that will not be forgotten by the Joint Logistics Command service members who participated in the outing.

"When we left, some of the children were in tears," MacKenzie said. "It's amazing how quickly you can form a bond."

## LETTERS continued from p. 4

"This is such a valuable lesson for the kids," said Fox. "They are giving back and supporting their community and their world."

For Fox's 4th grade class, their care package did just that. Tim Crothers' unit was so moved by the gesture that they felt the best way to say thank you was to write back to each individual child and send a few goodies of their own.

Crothers was able to get in contact with the 7th District Coast Guard Public Affairs Office in Miami to send their packages back to Seattle and personally delivered by a Coast Guard member to Fox's class.

On delivery day, their eyes lit up as though they were waking up to presents on Christmas morning. Squeals of delight echoed throughout the colorful and brightly lit classroom. Curious, excited looks were shot between classmates wondering what surprises were in store for them.

Each child's name was called out and given two personalized letters along with some Coast Guard wristbands.

"This is the first time I ever got a letter when it wasn't a holiday," said Amador.

"They said they really liked my Muddy Buddies and that made me really happy."

"It's wonderful getting these letters," said Helen Nguyen, a student in Fox's class. "I really liked their handwriting. I'm really sad that Haiti had a big earthquake like that."

"I'm really proud of my dad," said Paige. "We [the class] were really happy he sent goodies back. I knew he was going to be gone for a long time but I knew he would be trying to help the kids and people in Haiti."

Any person who watched the smiles unfold would understand that words were not needed to express the gratitude that was felt throughout the class. Fox's computer desktop wallpaper showed a photo of Tim Crothers and his unit holding up the large signed heart.

The children ran to their friend's desk to share the letters that they received. Sitting silently on the side of the class was Tim Crothers' wife, Angela Crothers, with a satisfied smile spread across her face.

"This is just great," said Angela Crothers.

She wouldn't be the only satisfied customer. Fox could hardly contain the sound of pure joy in her voice as she spoke.



The computer desktop of Jaymi Fox, the 4th grade teacher for Talbot Elementary School in Renton, Wash., displays a picture of members from Coast Guard Base Support Unit Seattle holding a large cutout heart sent by the class Wednesday, March 31. (U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Tara Molle)

"I do a lot of supporting the troops any way that I can," said Fox. "When I found out that Tim was being sent to help, this just felt like the right thing to do. I just do what I can. It's the best we can do to give back to those who sacrifice for well being of others."

# White Falcons mobilize, act after quake

by Capt. Edmond Grant  
Logistics Officer, 2-325 AR

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti- On Jan. 12, an earthquake of epic magnitude rocked the city of Port-au-Prince, Haiti. This horrific event prompted one of the largest humanitarian aid missions ever mobilized by the international community.

Along with this aid came the logistical challenge inherent to the requirement to simultaneously save lives and support the 20,000 Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, Airman, Coast Guardsmen and civilians constituting JTF-Haiti. Among these forces were the dedicated Paratroopers of the 2nd Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, (White Falcons), 2nd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division.

The White Falcons arrived with nothing more than their baggage, two humvees, and four Military Gators. During the early days on the western edge of the airfield, Paratroopers lived in poncho shelters centered around company guidons.

Within hours of their arrival, the 407th Brigade Support Battalion, the logistical arm of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, was able to equip the White Falcons with light



2-325th Airborne Infantry Regiment Paratroopers were among the first to mobilize and reach Haiti in support of Operation Unified Response. The unit was deployed days after the Jan 12 earthquake hit the small country of Haiti. (courtesy photo of U.S. Army)

medium tactical vehicles (LMTV) and additional humvees. This critical factor allowed commanders to move a Platoon's worth of Paratroopers and deliver aid to those in immediate need.

The 407th also brought Meals Ready to Eat (MREs) and bottled water to hungry

and thirsty troops who initially lacked any type of shade.

As operations continued, troops received elements from Forward Support Company (FSC) and with them came additional

**see FALCONS on p. 7**

## Military engineers help Haiti build better future

by Judith Snyderman  
Office of the Secretary of  
Defense Public Affairs

WASHINGTON- Efforts to help Haiti rebuild after a devastating earthquake on Jan. 12 will continue after Joint Task Force- Haiti winds down at the end of May, the task force's chief engineer said, April 15.

Navy Capt. James Wink recapped progress and outlined plans for the next phase of recovery during a "DoD Live" bloggers roundtable discussion.

Wink witnessed overwhelming scenes of destruction in Haiti when he arrived there Jan. 29.

"The amount of rubble that was caused by this earthquake

is 25 million cubic yards," he said. "To put that in a picture, that's five Louisiana Superdomes filled with rubble."

Logistics, rather than technical engineering obstacles, posed the greatest challenges, Wink said. Many people were still living on the streets of the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince at the end of January, he told the bloggers, so engineers began working in a triage mode to move people into shelter.

"Before we could do anything else," he added, "we had to get the rubble out of the way."

Throughout the operation, Wink said, he's been impressed by the unified effort as the joint

**see HELP on p. 7**



Navy Capt. James Wink, chief engineer, JTF-Haiti, speaks with Lt. Gen. Ken Keen, commanding general, JTF-Haiti, during the general's visit to a work site. The focus for the engineers is to prepare for the upcoming rainy season as much as possible. (courtesy photo of U.S. Army)

**FALCONS continued from p. 6**

humvees, LMTVs, maintenance/repair trucks, a satellite internet trailer, power generators, and water buffalos.

Immediately, the FSC established their own logistical base and tied themselves into all operations with the 407th Brigade Support Battalion. This crucial effort granted the White Falcons the mobility to expand their operations.

Four days after setting up at the airfield, the White Falcons relocated to Helicopter Landing Zone (HLZ) 4. The logistics of this move centered on the four LMTVs that the FSC had acquired and the three LMTVs on loan from the 407th BSB.

Within hours, the White Falcons were off the airfield and at their new home at HLZ 4, a parking lot on an industrial beach south of the seaport. This dispersion necessitated a decentralized approach to logistics. The FSC Commander stayed on the airfield and organized and coordinated the logistical support packages required to sustain the force at HLZ 4.

The key to this operation was communication via government-issued Blackberry phones, which allowed our logisticians swift, direct, and productive voice-to-voice contact.

During operations in the following weeks, 2-325 sustained a force that drove over 900 cumulative miles per week in over 50 vehicles (demanding 400-600 gallons of fuel each day), ate 2,000 hot meals every day, and drank 5,000 bottles of water every day. Even this effort, however, paled in comparison to the 2 million meals, 3 million pounds of bulk food, and 35,000 bottles of water they distributed to Haitians in need.

The coordination between the 407<sup>th</sup> BSB, the FSC units at the airfield, and the White Falcons at HLZ 4 led directly to the White Falcons' overwhelming success during Operation Unified Response. 2-325's adaptive, resourceful logisticians were able not only to support our force, but to deliver massive amounts of humanitarian aid when the need was most severe.



2-325th Airborne Infantry Regiment Paratroopers originally slept under poncho shelters after having boots on the ground in Haiti several days after the Jan. 12 earthquake. Troops had limited supplies due to the rapid response of the military. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Taylor/2-325 AR)

**HELP continued from p. 6**

task force worked in support of the U.S. Agency for International Development, international representatives and Haitian officials. The triple mission everyone is working toward, explained, is to establish a basic level of functioning shelter, sanitation and settlement for earthquake victims.

An initial priority for engineers was to assess the main seaport which was heavily damaged. Analysis showed that the port's north pier was a complete loss, Wink said, but by the end of February, Seabees and Army divers had repaired the south pier well enough to allow small watercraft to relay critical humanitarian supplies from ships stationed offshore to troops at the pier, who transported them to stranded civilians.

By the end of March, he added, the south pier was fully operational, and the port is now being run entirely by Haitian authorities with no Defense Department involvement.

Now, Wink said, engineers are focused on mitigating dangers from flash floods

and landslides during the upcoming rainy season for people living in camps.

"We're [working with] some of the Japanese and [U.S.] Navy Seabees inside some of those camps to install drainage systems and to build reinforcements to some of the walls," he said. The task force also is supporting the United Nations in building camps north of the capital city so displaced people can be moved out of harm's way.

Although Joint Task Force Haiti will be deactivated at the end of next month, Wink said, some Navy Seabees will remain to work on a new "Operation New Horizons" mission. Equipment is flowing in now to help in building community centers and schools in association with the mission.

Wink credited the service and sacrifice of U.S. troops and their families -- including the contributions of Navy Seabees and Army and Air Force engineers -- with much progress to date. But he also recognized the resilience of the Haitian people.

"These people are dealing with a disaster that is almost unexplainable



Navy Capt. James Wink, chief engineer, JTF-Haiti, greets Haiti's president, Rene Preval, during the first resettlement movement of internally displaced persons from Golf Delmas 48 to Corail Cesselesse on April 10. (U.S. Army photo by Pvt. Cody Barber/11th PAD)

in U.S. terms," he said. "They are living in conditions that are foreign to us. Yet, with a little bit of hope and a little bit of help, they just pick up and move on," he said.

# POSTCARDS FROM HAITI



At the internally displaced persons camp, Venus et Environs, volunteers work on placing sandbags in a recently dug ditch. The sandbags are one precaution being taken to better prepare the camp for the rainy season. Venus et Environs is one of nine camps identified as an at-risk area. (U.S. Army photo by Pvt. Samantha D. Hall/11th PAD)



At a small market beside the internally displaced persons camp, Bo Marche, a local woman guts a fish she is selling. She is one of many Haitians who sell goods at markets. Most markets are located within the IDP camps. (U.S. Army photo by Pvt. Samantha D. Hall/11th PAD)



Maj. Gen. Simeon Trombitas, commanding general, JTF-Haiti, and his party make their way up a steep incline at the internally displaced persons camp, Bo Marche, on April 15. Bo Marche is one of nine camps that has been identified as an at-risk for the rainy season. Trombitas was checking on this camp to see what improvements were being made. (U.S. Army photo by Pvt. Samantha D. Hall/11th PAD)



Internally displaced persons arrive at a new resettlement camp and being filling out the paperwork for their arrival. Haitians are being encouraged to move from IDP camps that are an at-risk for flooding during the rainy season to the new resettlement camps. (U.S. Army photo by Cpl. Jake Marlin/11th PAD)