

Fact Sheet



Points of Contact: Mr. Raul Duany, LCDR Chris Loundermon,
Mr. Steve Lucas
United States Southern Command
3511 NW 91st Avenue, Miami, FL 33172-1217
PHONE (305) 437-1210/1202/1213
FAX (305) 437-1241 Email: duanyr@hq.southcom.mil; lucass@hq.southcom.mil

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 13, 2004

Situation Report for Media: Multinational Interim Force – Haiti

MIAMI – Following are significant events and activities of the Multinational Interim Force – Haiti (MIF-H) and associated U.S. agencies during the last 24 hours:

- **Presence Patrol Fired Upon:** A MIF-H presence patrol of U.S. Marines was fired upon by multiple gunmen at approximately 9:00 p.m. last night in the Bel Air area 1 km north of the palace. The Marines returned fire and reported two gunmen were killed in the engagement. The patrol began to secure the area when they were again fired on. The Marines again returned fire and the gunmen fled. No additional casualties were reported. There are no Marine casualties. After the second engagement, the Marines operations center requested assistance from the International Red Cross and Haitian National Police to recover the bodies.
- **Chairman of the Joint Chiefs travels to Haiti:** The Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Air Force Gen. Richard B. Myers travels to Haiti today. The Chairman will meet with MIF-H leaders to assess the situation in Haiti and will thank troops helping to stabilize the country. Myers will conduct a press briefing prior to his departure from Port-au-Prince at approximately 5:00 p.m.
- **Security Assessments:**
 - The MIF-H continues visits throughout Haiti conducting security assessments and providing security assistance to Haitian government officials.
- **Joint Task Force – Haiti commander nominated**
 - Marine Brig. Gen. Ronald S. Coleman has been nominated to command the Joint Task Force – Haiti (JTF-Haiti). Formal confirmation is expected soon. As commander of JTF-Haiti, Coleman would be responsible for the 2,600-member multinational Interim Force (MIF), which includes about 1,600 U.S. military personnel. The MIF is in Haiti to establish security, to facilitate the deliver of humanitarian aid and to prepare for a follow-on United Nations force. Colman is currently the Commanding General, 2^d, Force Service Support Group, Camp Lejeune, N.C.
 - Coleman's biography can be found at www.usmc.mil/genbio2.nsf/biographies.
- **Humanitarian Aid:**
 - The first movement of relief supplies from Port-au-Prince to Cap-Haitien is scheduled to start today. These are the first supplies to be moved out to the Haitians in over three weeks.
 - MIF-H personnel and humanitarian organizations continue conducting assessments of the humanitarian aid situation. The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has a fact sheet detailing some of these assessments, titled *Haiti – Complex Emergency* at: <http://www.usaid.gov/haiti>

- **Stability Operations:** MIF-H Officials and representatives of other U.S. Government Agencies continue to coordinate with Haitian authorities to restore stability and the rule of law.
 - Many commercial air carriers have resumed flights into Haiti
 - Haiti's commercial activities are increasing as are pedestrian and vehicle traffic.
 - Garbage collection and street cleanups, although still sporadic, have resumed.
 - HNP officials are using local media to urge people to refrain from carrying arms until new permitting processes can be implemented.
 - Presence patrols continue activities in support of disarmament and to protect Haitians from acts of violence.

Force Statistics:

- MIF-H currently consists of nearly 2,600 troops, including about 1,650 U.S., more than 500 French (not including about 300 French Naval personnel in Caribbean Waters,) about 325 Chileans, and nearly 125 Canadians.
 - U.S. military airlift in support of the MIF-H total More than 90 flights to date, carrying U.S. military troops and supplies into Haiti.
 - U.S. Navy Ship Flickertail delivered 661 tons of supplies for MIF troops in Haiti, including Meals Ready to Eat, water and equipment necessary to conduct stability operations in Haiti.
- Department of Homeland Security's Coast Guard District 7 continues migration interdiction and rescue patrolling, more details at: <http://www.piersystem.com/external/index.cfm?cid=698>

-###