

U.S. SOUTHCOM

United States Southern Command Fact Sheet

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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 agencies during the last 24 hours:

- **MIF-H Restructuring:** In an activation ceremony this morning, the MIF-H was re-designated a Combined Joint Task Force (CTJF), under the command of U.S. Marine Brig. Gen. Ronald Coleman. The mission remains:
 - To provide a more secure and stable environment in Haiti;
 - To assist, as required, with the delivery of humanitarian assistance; and,
 - To help create the conditions for the arrival of a U.N. multinational force.
- In U.S. military parlance, a combined force is one containing representatives of two or more nations and a joint force is one comprised of two or more branches of the U.S. armed services.
- **Presence Patrolling & Disarmament Operations:**
 - A U.S. Marine of the MIF-H was wounded last night while conducting a presence patrol in the Bel Air section of Port-au-Prince.
 - U.S. Marine Pfc. Howard W. Hamilton from Murfreesboro, Tenn., assigned to the 3rd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, 2nd Marine Division, was wounded when his squad-sized patrol came under small arms fire from an unidentified gunmen in a nearby building. The patrol returned fire. It is unknown whether any of the unidentified gunmen were wounded or killed.
 - Pfc. Hamilton suffered a gunshot wound, was given first aid on the scene, and later evacuated to Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami for further treatment. His wound is not life threatening. Updates on his medical condition and status will be released as received.
 - The MIF-H and Haitian National Police (HNP) continue to conduct presence patrols to stabilize the security situation throughout Port-au-Prince, support disarmament and to protect Haitians from acts of violence.
- **Security Assessments:**
 - The MIF-H continues visits throughout Haiti conducting security assessments and providing security assistance to Haitian government officials.
- **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 urging people to refrain from carrying arms until new permitting processes can be implemented, and to emphasize that threats to MIF-H forces or the HNP will not be tolerated.

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- **Force Statistics:**
 - MIF-H currently consists of more than 2,700 troops, which includes about 1,750 U.S., more than 500 French (not including about 300 French Naval personnel in Caribbean waters,) more than 325 Chileans, and more than 125 Canadians.
 - About 25 additional Canadians and their equipment are expected to arrive in Haiti in the next 24 hours.
 - Civil Affairs soldiers have arrived in Haiti and are establishing a Civil-Military Operations Center in Port-au-Prince. These soldiers will work with international agencies and Haitian leaders in the cities, towns and communities to improve life in Haiti and to coordinate civil-military operations with local Haitian officials.
 - U.S. military airlift in support of the MIF-H total More than 95 flights to date, carrying U.S. military troops and supplies into Haiti.
- **Migrant Interdiction:**
 - 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>.

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