FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 16, 2004

Situation Report for Media: Multinational Interim Force–Haiti

MIAMI – Following are significant events and activities of the Multinational Interim Force (MIF) and Combined
Joint Task Force (CJTF) – Haiti and associated agencies during the last 24 hours:

**Stability Operations:** MIF/CJTF-H officials and representatives of other U.S. Government agencies
continue to coordinate with Haitian authorities to restore stability and the rule of law.
- The Civil-Military Operations Center is now fully operational. The staff of the CMOC will work
with international agencies and Haitian leaders in the nation’s cities, towns and communities to improve
life in Haiti and to coordinate operations with local Haitian officials.
- The U.S. Coast Guard has been appointed as the Maritime Component Command for the CJTF-H. The
MCC will continue to support stability operations by providing support for port security in Port-au-
Prince (PaP) harbor and conducting port assessments to help restore commercial and humanitarian
operation in other Haitian ports.
- HNP and MIF/CJTF-H officials continue to urge Haitians to refrain from carrying arms until new
permitting processes can be implemented, and to emphasize that threats to MIF/CJTF-H forces or the
Haitian National Police (HNP) will not be tolerated.
- 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 have resumed.

- **Presence Patrolling, Security and Disarmament Operations:**
  - MIF/CJTF-H troops have secured port facilities in PaP to enable the safe unloading and stocking of
humanitarian supplies and the normal delivery of commercial cargo.
  - MIF/CJTF-H troops will also be clearing and securing key transportation routes to facilitate safe and
secure movement of their forces, humanitarian assistance and commercial traffic.
  - The MIF/CJTF-H and HNP continue to conduct vehicles and foot presence patrols to stabilize the
security situation throughout PaP, support disarmament and to protect Haitians from acts of violence. In
the last 24 hours, all patrols were conducted without significant incident.

- **Security Assessments:**
  - The MIF/CJTF-H continues visits throughout Haiti conducting security assessments and providing
security assistance to Haitian government officials.

- **Force Statistics:**
  - MIF/CJTF-H currently consists of more than 2,900 troops, which includes nearly 1,800 U.S., more
than 525 French (not including French Naval personnel in Caribbean waters,) nearly 330 Chileans, and
more than 275 Canadians.

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MIF/CTJF-H forces have a robust quick reaction and mobility capability, including more than 50 vehicles and nearly a dozen aircraft.

U.S. government aircraft providing support to the MIF/CTJF-H include more than 50 aircraft. Their missions include carrying U.S. military and other agency personnel and supplies to and from Haiti, reconnaissance and maritime surveillance.

**Migrant Interdiction:**
- The Department of Homeland Security deactivated its Homeland Security Task Force Southeast yesterday, citing increasing stabilization of the situation in Haiti and a resulting reduced risk of increased migrant activity.
- Department of Homeland Security’s Coast Guard District 7 continues patrolling to support migration interdiction and rescue, more details at: http://www.d7publicaffairs.com/.

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Additional information and previous releases are located at http://www.southcom.mil/