FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 22, 2004

Situation Report for Media: Multinational Interim Force

MIAMI – Following are significant events and activities of the Multinational Interim Force (MIF) and Combined Joint Task Force (CJTF)– Haiti and associated agencies supporting Operation Secure Tomorrow during the last 24 hours (new or updated information in bold characters):

- **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.
  - MIF/CJTF-H, Haitian and diplomatic personnel are assisting representatives from Brazil and other nations that anticipate contributing forces to the follow-on UN stabilization force to conduct assessments of the key areas and issues in Haiti.
  - French forces in Cap Haitian and Gonaives are securing key routes between several northern cities to facilitate the flow of humanitarian assistance, stabilization forces and commercial traffic.
  - The Civil-Military Operations Center (C-MOC) and other elements of the MIF/CJTF-H staff continue work with Haitian leaders, international agencies, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and the Haitian people to improve life in Haiti and to coordinate operations with Haitian officials.
  
  Recent activities include:
  - U.S. Marine Forces are supplying water and investigating the possibility of providing medical supplies to the Geriatric Center near the CJTF Headquarters, in what they have dubbed “Operation Cocoon.”
  - MIF/CJTF-H officials are working closely with the Haitian Coast Guard to restore their capabilities and facilities.
  - The Maritime Component Command for the CJTF-H (elements of U.S. Coast Guard) continues support for port security in Port-au-Prince (PaP) harbor, providing aids to navigation and conducting port assessments to help restore commercial accessibility and facilitate humanitarian operations in other Haitian ports.
  - Haitian National Police (HNP) and MIF/CJTF-H officials continue to urge Haitians to disarm and emphasize that threats to MIF/CJTF-H forces or the HNP will not be tolerated.
  - Key transportation routes continue to reopen and fuel supplies are arriving by truck to most Haitian cities.
  - Garbage collection, street cleanups and basic services have resumed and are increasing and improving.

- **Presence Patrols, Security and Disarmament Operations:**
  - MIF/CJTF-H troops from the U.S. Marine, French, Chilean, and Canadian contingents have secured port facilities and the international airport in PaP to facilitate the delivery of humanitarian assistance and restore routine commercial cargo and passengers flow.

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MIF/CJTF-H troops and HNP are clearing and securing key transportation routes to permit safe and secure movement of security forces, humanitarian assistance, emergency services and commercial traffic. The MIF/CJTF-H conducted nearly two-dozen presence patrols in PaP to help stabilize the security situation throughout PaP, support disarmament and to protect Haitians from acts of violence. The patrols have repeatedly demonstrated disciplined and effective responses to threats and are promoting increasing confidence, cooperation and support from the majority of the Haitian people.

Security Assessments:
- The MIF/CJTF-H continues visits throughout Haiti conducting security assessments and providing security assistance to Haitian government officials. Those assessments indicate a generally improving security situation and increasing opportunities for the establishment of the rule of law and civil order.

Force Statistics:
- MIF/CTJF-H currently consists of more than 3,300 troops, which includes nearly 1,900 U.S., more than 730 French (not including French Naval personnel in Caribbean waters,) more than 360 Canadians and more than 330 Chileans.
- MIF/CTJF-H forces on the ground have a robust quick reaction and mobility capability, including more than 50 vehicles and about 15 aircraft. Additionally, more than a dozen ships in Haitian and nearby international waters provide for migrant interdiction, rescue and repatriation; maritime safety, aids to navigation and support of MIF/CJTF forces ashore.
- U.S. government aircraft providing support to the MIF/CTJF-H include nearly 50 aircraft. Their missions include personnel and cargo movement, reconnaissance and maritime surveillance.

Migrant Interdiction:
- Department of Homeland Security’s Coast Guard District 7 continues patrolling to support migration interdiction and rescue, more details at: http://www.d7publicaffairs.com/. DHS, U.S. State Department, and MIH/CJTF officials continue to report no indicators of significant migration attempts.

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