



# UNITED STATES SOUTHERN COMMAND

## USSOUTHCOM HEADLINE NEWS

Wednesday, November 3, 2010

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### ***SOUTHCOM RELATED ARTICLES***

#### **SOUTHCOM - Haiti**

1. [US Naval Ship Heads To Haiti As Tropical Storm Approaches](#)

Source: Agence France-Presse

11/03/2010

WASHINGTON – A US naval ship on Tuesday headed toward Haiti to offer humanitarian help in case Tropical Storm Tomas strikes the country as forecast, the military said.

2. [USS Iwo Jima Heads To Haiti](#)

Source: WWLP 22News

11/03/2010

MIAMI (WAVY) - U.S. Southern Command on Tuesday directed the amphibious ship USS Iwo Jima (LHD 7) to steam toward Haiti in preparation for the expected arrival of tropical storm Tomas later this week.

3. [Storm Heads For Haiti After Killing 12 In St. Lucia](#)

Source: Voice of America

11/03/2010

Earthquake survivors gather around a bonfire at a makeshift camp in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, where Tropical Storm Tomas might be headed, 01 Nov 2010

4. [Navy Sends Ship To Haiti Ahead Of Tropical Storm Tomas](#)

Source: ABC News Radio

11/02/2010

U.S. Southern Command is sending an amphibious assault ship to Haiti in advance of tropical storm Tomas' projected arrival later this week.

5. [US Ship Heads To Haiti As Storm Nears](#)

Source: Ninemsn

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1. **US Naval Ship Heads To Haiti As Tropical Storm Approaches**

Source: Agence France-Presse

11/03/2010

WASHINGTON – A US naval ship on Tuesday headed toward Haiti to offer humanitarian help in case Tropical Storm Tomas strikes the country as forecast, the military said.

As Haiti prepared to evacuate tens of thousands ahead of the storm, naval commanders ordered the USS Iwo Jima to steam toward Haiti from Suriname.

The amphibious ship has eight CH-46 Sea Knight helicopters and two MH-60 night Hawk choppers and a crew of 1,600, including medical and engineering teams ready to assist in relief efforts after the storm strikes, the US Navy said in a statement.

The military often deploys the versatile amphibious ships for humanitarian missions, as aid supplies and emergency medical teams can be ferried quickly to shore without need of a local airport.

Forecasters said Tomas was expected to regain strength and reach Haiti possibly by Friday.

The storm's violent winds, heavy rain and landslides pose a particular risk to the up to 1.3 million people who inhabit the makeshift tent city camps set up after Haiti's devastating earthquake in January.

Global relief agencies stepped up emergency plans to protect up to 500,000 Haitians from a tropical storm forecast to hit the country which is also facing a cholera epidemic.

Haiti has already suffered the double blow this year of a devastating earthquake that levelled parts of the capital, killing 250,000 people, in January, as well as an unprecedented cholera epidemic that has infected more than 4,700 people further north and killed 337 since late October.

[Return](#)

## **2. USS Iwo Jima Heads To Haiti**

*Ship wrapping up Operation Continuing Promise 2010*

**Source: WWLP 22News**

11/03/2010

MIAMI (WAVY) - U.S. Southern Command on Tuesday directed the amphibious ship USS Iwo Jima (LHD 7) to steam toward Haiti in preparation for the expected arrival of tropical storm Tomas later this week.

The Iwo Jima will deploy to Haiti from Suriname, where it arrived Oct. 28 on its final country visit for Operation Continuing Promise 2010 (CP10), a four-month, humanitarian civic assistance mission to eight nations in the Caribbean region. The ship is scheduled to arrive in Haiti later this week.

The Norfolk, Va.-based Iwo Jima carries a crew of 1,600 military and civilian medical, engineering, aviation, logistical and other support personnel, including U.S. Navy engineers, a contingent of 500 Marines with logistical-support expertise, volunteers from the U.S. Public Health Service and various non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and medical, dental and engineering professionals from Europe, North America and South America.

Eight CH-46 Sea Knight, medium-lift, dual-rotor helicopters; two MH-60 Knight Hawk helicopters and two amphibious landing craft units (LCU's) are also on the Iwo Jima to support the ship's operations.

Because of the Caribbean region's history of severe-weather events during the peak months of the hurricane season, the ship has remained in the area throughout its present deployment, ready to support U.S. disaster relief efforts when directed.

Iwo Jima was in Port-de-Paix, Haiti, from July 24 through Aug. 3. It was the first stop on CP10 and the crew provided medical assistance to more than 4,000 Haitian citizens, performed 32 surgeries, completed six engineering projects, and delivered 231 pallets of humanitarian-assistance supplies donated by NGOs.

Large amphibious ships, like Iwo Jima, resemble small aircraft carriers and include the ability to support helicopter and landing craft operations to quickly move personnel and cargo, making it an ideal platform to support humanitarian-relief missions on short notice.

In September 2008, the amphibious ship USS Kearsarge deployed to Haiti to support U.S. relief efforts after a succession of storms (Fay, Gustav, Hanna and Ike) devastated the country. Kearsarge

provided robust air and sealift support, delivering 3.3 million pounds of food, water and other aid to communities impacted by the disasters.

[Return](#)

### **3. Storm Heads For Haiti After Killing 12 In St. Lucia**

**Source: Voice of America**

11/03/2010

Earthquake survivors gather around a bonfire at a makeshift camp in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, where Tropical Storm Tomas might be headed, 01 Nov 2010

Tropical storm Tomas is heading for Haiti after sweeping over the eastern Caribbean islands where it killed at least 12 people.

Tomas weakened to a tropical storm after hitting the islands, but forecasters say it is likely to pick up strength again over the central Caribbean.

In preparation for the storm's expected arrival at Haiti, the U.S. military has diverted the amphibious ship USS Iwo Jima from Suriname toward Port-au-Prince, where it could support humanitarian relief missions on short notice.

The hurricane-strength storm hit the resort island of St. Lucia Saturday, triggering landslides. Officials say they have confirmed at least 12 dead.

St. Lucia's Prime Minister Stephenson King declared a state of emergency in the island nation Tuesday, and asked for international aid.

The storm could pose a threat to Haiti, where hundreds of thousands of people are living in tents after a devastating earthquake in January.

The country is also struggling to contain a cholera outbreak that has killed more than 300 people.

Tuesday afternoon, the U.S. National Hurricane Center said Tomas was about 570 kilometers south-southeast of Port-au-Prince, with winds of 85 kilometers per hour.

United Nations agencies and other aid groups have ordered emergency supplies to be stockpiled across Haiti, especially in areas threatened by the storm.

The USS Iwo Jima carries 1,600 military and civilian medical, engineering, aviation and logistical support personnel. With its helicopters and flight deck, and ability to quickly move personnel and cargo, the ship is well-suited for humanitarian and disaster relief missions.

[Return](#)

### **4. Navy Sends Ship To Haiti Ahead Of Tropical Storm Tomas**

**Source: ABC News Radio**

11/02/2010

U.S. Southern Command is sending an amphibious assault ship to Haiti in advance of tropical storm Tomas' projected arrival later this week.

According to the U.S. Navy, USS Iwo Jima, along with its 10 helicopters and two landing crafts, will travel from Suriname to Haiti in case humanitarian relief is needed after the storms hits.

By the end of this week, Tomas is expected to veer towards Haiti, where over a million people are still living in tents and under tarps, making them vulnerable to heavy rainfall and wind. The earthquake-ravaged country has also been battling a recent outbreak of cholera that has sickened thousands of people.

[Return](#)

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[Return](#)