

SPMAGTF Marines and Sailors,

Tropical Storm Tomas is anticipated to make landfall along the Western point of Haiti's Southern peninsula at 0100 tomorrow.

We are currently steaming directly for Haiti so we can immediately follow the storm with an initial HA/DR response (as soon as the weather safely allows).

This initial response will focus heavily on aerial assessments along main supply routes and populated areas throughout the southern peninsula. We anticipate only a small number of Marines to go ashore tomorrow primarily as translators, air traffic control, and LNOs for MINUSTAH (United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti).

Following our aerial assessment, the government of Haiti and MINUSTAH will have a better understanding of the storm damage that will help them determine how U.S. and international forces can best support relief efforts.

Our mission is:

ON ORDER, SPMAGTF CONDUCTS INITIAL HA/DR RESPONSE ALONG HAITI'S SOUTHERN PENINSULA IOT ENABLE/SUPPORT GOVERNMENT OF HAITI AND MINUSTAH RELIEF EFFORTS.

Regarding our timeline for returning to CONUS; our current timeline for returning to North Carolina/Virginia has not changed. The length of our initial HA/DR response will be determined upon;

- (1) The damage caused by Tropical Storm Tomas;
- (2) Our specified tasks directed by the government of Haiti and MINUSTAH;
- (3) The ability for the government of Haiti and MINUSTAH to conduct relief efforts without our assistance.

Our HHQ will make the determination around 10 November as to whether we will continue initial HA/DR response in Haiti, or return home as scheduled.

Regarding the mission in front of us; Our SPMAGTF was built with HA/DR response in mind. You have been well-trained to respond to this crisis.

Throughout this deployment, you have gained operational efficiencies with our Navy brothers to make a huge difference in the lives of others.

I have no doubt you are ready for the task at hand.

God Speed and Semper Fidelis!

LtCol Chris Richie
CO, SPMAGTF CP-10