



THE UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF MAYORS

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January 13, 2010

To: The Mayor

From: Tom Cochran, CEO and Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Cochran".

Re: Update on Response to Earthquake in Haiti

As you are well aware, reports from Haiti have become increasingly dire as the day has progressed, with estimates of the death toll going beyond 100,000. This afternoon Haitian President Rene Preval appealed for medical help because so many hospitals have been destroyed. The White House held a conference call this afternoon which provided additional information. This memo reflects what we learned during that call and other information we've gathered since this morning's memo.

- USAID's Disaster Assistance Response Team will do the initial assessment on the ground, send back information and coordinate relief efforts. We were told on the White House call that now four urban search and rescue teams (from California, Florida, and Virginia) are being sent. According to local press reports, the Fairfax County team is already on the way.
- A Navy aircraft carrier and large-deck amphibious ship, as well as military transport aircraft and assessment teams, have been dispatched.
- Continuously updated information is available from the White House (www.whitehouse.gov), USAID (www.usaid.gov), and FEMA (www.fema.gov).
- The White House conference call also referred organizations wanting to provide personnel and other help to the Center for International Disaster Information at www.cidi.org or (703) 276-1914.
- FEMA Deputy Administrator Richard Serino released a statement this afternoon on behalf of FEMA Administrator Craig Fugate reminding the response community that "assets should not self deploy to affected areas. The United States Department of State and USAID have the lead for foreign disaster assistance, and U.S. assets should deploy only if tasked to do so by the State Department or USAID." He said further that "the most urgent need that the response community can fulfill at this time is supporting ongoing disaster relief fundraising efforts."
- Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Assistant Secretary John Morton have halted all deportations to Haiti for the time being.

We will continue to send updates as we get additional information.