

# USSOUTHCOM

## United States Southern Command

### Fact Sheet



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### Situation Report for Media: Multinational Interim Force – Haiti

**MIAMI** – Following are significant events and activities of the Multinational Interim Force – Haiti (MIF-H) and associated U.S. agencies during the last 24 hours:

#### Disarmament Operations:

- About 5 p.m. Thursday night, members of the Chilean contingent of the MIF-H saw some people carrying weapons into a house near the MIF-H Headquarters. The Chilean soldiers requested and received permission to enter the house, detain the individuals, and seize the weapons. The Chilean soldiers also requested support from the Haitian National Police (HNP). The Chileans detained three Haitians, a rifle, a handgun and a shotgun. The Chileans transported the detainees to the local police station where they were questioned and later released. Haitians with unregistered firearms will have their firearms confiscated. Security personnel are being allowed to keep their pistols and shotguns.
- About 8:40 p.m. Thursday night, a U.S. Marine patrol was fired upon from a Toyota dealership in the St. Martin area. The Marines returned fire and moved to cordon off the building in an attempt to detain the gunman. During the movement to establish the cordon area, they were fired on by four or five gunmen. The Marines returned fire. The gunman then fled the scene. HNP who were on patrol in the area arrived at approximately 9:30 p.m. The HNP and the Marines searched the area and found one sawed-off shotgun. Behind the Toyota dealership the HNP and Marines found two security guards who had been harassed and threatened by thugs. The guards told the HNP and Marines that the thugs were coming to the Toyota dealership to set up an ambush for HNP, U.S. or French forces. The owner was called and he verified the guards' stories. The guards were allowed to remain on the premises and the Marine patrol continued its mission. One shotgun was confiscated. There were no casualties.

#### Security Assessments:

- The MIF-H continues visits throughout Haiti conducting security assessments and providing security assistance to Haitian government officials.

#### Humanitarian Aid:

- MIF-H personnel and humanitarian organizations continue conducting assessments of the humanitarian aid situation. The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) has a fact sheet detailing some of these assessments, titled *Haiti – Complex Emergency* at: <http://www.usaid.gov/haiti>

#### Stability Operations:

- MIF-H Officials and representatives of other U.S. Government Agencies continue to coordinate with Haitian authorities to restore stability and the rule of law.
- Commercial activities are increasing as are pedestrian and vehicle traffic.
- HNP officials are using local media to urge people to refrain from carrying arms until new permitting processes can be implemented.

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## HAITI UPDATE

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- Garbage collection and street cleanups, although still sporadic, have resumed.
- Presence patrols continue activities in support of disarmament and to protect Haitians from acts of violence.

### **Force Statistics:**

- MIF-H currently consists of nearly 2,510 persons, including about 1,630 U.S., more than 520 French (not including about 300 French Naval personnel in Caribbean Waters,) about 340 Chileans, and nearly 40 Canadians. The reduction in military personnel in Haiti will fluctuate based on mission requirements and the stability of the situation.
- U.S. military airlift in support of the MIF-H total nearly 84 flights, to date, carrying more than 1700 passengers and nearly 2000 tons of cargo.
- U.S. Naval Ship Flickertail State departed Port-au-Prince today after offloading more than 660 tons of equipment for U.S. ground forces participating in the MIF. This supply gives the Marine Air/Ground Task Force 8 (MAGTAF) all their organic equipment to conduct stabilization operations in Haiti.

### **DHS Activities:**

- **U.S. Coast Support of MIF-H:** Department of Homeland Security's Task Force Southeast (HSTF-SE) continues migration interdiction and rescue patrolling, more details at: <http://www.piersystem.com/external/index.cfm?cid=698>

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