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Ongoing DoD Support to Hurricane Relief Efforts

As of Sept. 27, 2017

In Puerto Rico, enhanced communications and completed assessments are providing a clearer picture of the extent of the storm damage and the magnitude of the response challenge. Given the changing scope and conditions, DoD will adjust its concept of operations in Puerto Rico and transition from a short term, sea-based response to a predominantly land-based effort designed to provide robust, longer term support to FEMA and the Territory. The situation in USVI continues to improve; the USVI Governor is shifting from response to recovery.

Situation Update:

Puerto Rico: Response operations continue as synchronization of efforts between the Title 10 forces/Puerto Rico National Guard/FEMA improve. Fuel distribution remains the top FEMA priority. Multiple DoD elements delivered fuel and continue route clearance operations. 59 of 69 hospitals are operational with unknown status. Roughly 44 percent of the population remains without drinking water. The San Juan Airport and nine other airports are open. Three seaports are open and five are open with restrictions.

USVI: The J.F. Luis Hospital in St. Croix has been found to be structurally sound. Power has been restored to the Schneider Hospital on St. Thomas. Airports are closed except for military and relief operations. Eight seaports are open with restrictions.

DoD Response Details:

Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands:

- USNORTHCOM is developing an enhanced logistical capability designed around a sustainment brigade and able to provide logistical command and control, transportation, supply distribution, movement control and engineering capabilities.
- The USARNORTH Deputy Commanding General, BG Rich Kim, will deploy to Puerto Rico today and establish a JFLCC1-Forward HQ to manage the T10 support to the response.
- USNORTHCOM will deploy medical capability and ambulances and has requested the USNS COMFORT prepare to get underway (72-96 hour prep time).



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- USTRANSCOM coordinated 14 flights to VIPR yesterday, delivering food, water, FEMA communications, FEMA logistics, security teams and critical DOD enablers (communications, logistics, and command and control) and has 16 flights scheduled today, delivering food, water, communications, and DoD rotary wing aviation.
- The ARG/MEU is providing first responder movement, commodities & fuel distribution, and route clearance in PR. The ARG/MEU established Roosevelt Roads Airfield as an Installation Staging Base (ISB); available for 7x24 hurricane relief and commercial operations. The MEU is also moving HHS assessment teams, via helicopter, to hospitals across Puerto Rico to determine medical requirements.
- DLA is transporting 15,000 gallons of propane to Puerto Rico and 10,000 to USVI and has coordinated the shipment of trucks and support vehicles (175,000 gal diesel/75,000 gal MOGAS) by barge to PR by September 29. DLA is also shipping 90 fuel trucks to PR.

Foreign Disaster Assistance:

Caribbean Region: USSOUTHCOM JTF Leeward Islands (JTF-LI) continues to support DOS HA/DR operations in the Leeward and Windward Islands, conducting SAR operations and evacuating U.S. citizens. USS WASP helicopters continue to support AMCIT evacuations and respond to request for reconnaissance, transportation, and logistics support.

For more information please see these resources:

Hurricane Maria Special Reports:

https://www.defense.gov/News/Special-Reports/0917_hurricane-maria/

More than 600 available images/footage available for media purposes:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/feature/HurricaneMaria>