

A Force for Good



Relief Efforts in Peru

Joining humanitarian workers from around the world, U.S. airmen and soldiers arrived in Peru to treat casualties following the magnitude 8 earthquake that struck on August 15, killing more than 500 people and injuring over 1,500.

The Air Force sent a Texas-based medical team of 14 airmen, and Southern Command's Joint Task Force Bravo, based in Honduras, sent a 30-person mobile surgical team to provide medical care to Peruvians affected by the disaster.



Private 1st Class David Torres gets information from local paramedic Maricarmen Perez in Pisco. (U.S. Army photo/Spc. Grant Vaught)

Pisco, a fishing port 125 miles southeast of Peru's capital, Lima, was hardest hit. Over 80 percent of its homes were destroyed.

The American contingent has tended to more than 500 earthquake victims so far, and expects to remain in country to treat the displaced, the hungry, and the injured for several days.

U.S. forces have brought with them 4,470 pounds of medical supplies.

"Our team is designed to do life- and limb-saving operations," said Lieutenant Colonel Robert Rush of the

U.S. Army. "We can't do very specialized surgeries, but we can stabilize patients so they can be treated later."

Joint Task Force Team Heads to Belize in Wake of Hurricane Dean

SOTO CANO AIR BASE, Honduras – Approximately 25 Airmen and Soldiers from Joint Task Force-Bravo here will deploy to Belize early this afternoon to assess the damage caused by Hurricane Dean.

The Soto Cano assessment team will bring multiple personnel to evaluate the amount of assistance needed from U.S. forces including search and rescue, medical, engineering and communications troops.

"Joint Task Force-Bravo has the capability to provide everything from airlift assets to medical expertise to



Crewmembers on the Space Shuttle Endeavour captured this image of Hurricane Dean as a category 4 storm in the Caribbean. (Photo courtesy NASA)

simple manpower to help move debris,” said assessment team commander Army Maj. Michael Angell. “Our job is to take a look at the damage and evaluate what assets we have that Belize needs right now.”

The assessment team will launch within two hours of receiving orders to deploy from U.S. Southern Command.

“We’ve been monitoring the progress of Hurricane Dean for quite a while now,” said Lt. Col. Howard Jones, Joint Task Force-Bravo deputy commander. “In natural disasters like this, each minute counts, so we created a plan in advance to enable us to respond quickly.”