



OSD Public Affairs Disaster Relief

Ongoing DoD Support to Hurricane Relief Efforts

As of Sept. 28, 2017

In Puerto Rico, DoD continues ongoing relief operations and is leaning forward to rapidly deploy additional response capacity, expanding airfield throughput and positioning key leaders forward supporting FEMA's efforts to stabilize the situation in Puerto Rico and sustain life. DoD continues to support FEMA's immediate objectives to complete hospital assessments in PR and establish an island-wide commodities distribution plan. The situation in USVI continues to improve; shifting from response to recovery.

Situation Update:

- Puerto Rico: Assessments are complete at 47 of 69 hospitals, many facilitated by DoD helicopter lift support. Fuel and commodities distribution remains top priorities, with priority to hospitals. DoD delivered fuel to 9 hospitals and supported establishment of over 100 points of distribution, including 12 Puerto Rico National Guard armories. US Army Corps of Engineers is providing 900 super sand bags to shore up the Guajataca Dam spillway. The Civil Authority Information Support Element is supporting efforts by the territorial government to reach out to the 78 municipalities. Eight airports are open, one airport remains closed. Five of six FEMA-priority sea ports are open or open with restrictions, including, as of last night, the key port of Mayaguez (west side), daylight only, with 28 foot draft restriction.
- USVI: Incident Support Bases (ISBs) are being established on St. Thomas and St. Croix to distribute commodities.

DoD Response Details:

Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands:

- BG Rich Kim arrived in Puerto Rico yesterday to establish a JFLCC1-Forward HQ and linked up with territorial authorities, and all components of the Federal response effort.
- USNORTHCOM is deploying medical capabilities and ambulances. The USNS COMFORT is expected to depart Norfolk, VA, tomorrow and arrive middle of next week in Puerto Rico.
- USTRANSCOM is transporting, via C-5C, a large generator to power the critical Combined/Center Radar Approach Control facility in PR. This generator will enhance air traffic control capacity and increase the number of slot times at San Juan and other airports.



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- The ARG/MEU continues to provide first responder movement, commodities and fuel distribution, and route clearance capabilities; MEU helicopters are supporting movement of HHS hospital assessment teams.
- DLA's initial shipment of 100 trucks carrying diesel and gasoline fuel will arrive by barge to San Juan by Oct. 2. DLA is continuing meal distribution efforts and working future requirements to support up to 160 million meals for a 30 day period.
- The DHS Secretary has issued a 10 day waiver of the Jones Act, allowing the shipment of relief supplies by foreign vessels, from CONUS to Puerto Rico.

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.

For more information please see these resources:

Hurricane Maria Special Reports:

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

Images/Video available for media purposes:

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

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

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