

**Navy Briefing Card**  
**Hurricane Sandy response efforts**  
**October 31, 2012 0700 EST**

**Background:**

Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces (USFF) is standing by to support U.S. Northern Command (NORTHCOM) defense support of civil authorities (DSCA) efforts following the destruction wrought by Hurricane Sandy on the Mid-Atlantic and Northeast regions of the United States.

**Posture:**

Per NORTHCOM updated draft PAG: Public Affairs Guidance for Hurricane Sandy is active for all units supporting USNORTHCOM's defense support of civil authorities (DSCA) missions related to Hurricane Sandy. This is a PA posture change from FRAGO 33, DTG 281400Z OCT 12. All units supporting USNORTHCOM's DSCA efforts will actively solicit external media coverage, to include embeds. All video and still imagery should be uploaded to DVIDS and DIMOC and push media to obtain VI products from the following link: [Http://www.dvidshub.net/feature/hurricanesandy#.ujabwzidl8f](http://www.dvidshub.net/feature/hurricanesandy#.ujabwzidl8f). Services, organizations and units assisting with local community lifesaving, infrastructure recovery (to include mutual aid and mutual response) and installation clean-up efforts that are not in support of USNORTHCOM's Hurricane Sandy DSCA missions should consult the appropriate local regulations, policies and rules that apply to media relations.

**Current Operational Overview:**

- USS WASP (LHD 1), USS SAN ANTONIO (LPD 17) AND USS CARTER HALL (LSD 50) are heading to the New York City area to assist under **Navy Service Authority**. [not DSCA tasking]
  - WASP was already at sea and is making its way to the area. SAN ANTONIO and CARTER HALL are scheduled to get underway on 31 OCT from Norfolk, VA.
- Command for the three ships is provided by Commander Amphibious Squadron (CPR) 6. Embarked capabilities include 1 x Mobile Diving & Salvage Unit (MDSU), 1x Area Search Platoon, 1 x Underwater Construction Team, 1 x Naval Mobile Construction Battalion (NMCB) Air Detachment, 1 x Civil-Military Operations Center (CMOC), 1 x Maritime Civil Affairs Team (MCAT), 1 x Riverine Squadron (RIVRON) detachment.
- Also cites Navy providing (6) MH-60S with rescue swimmers (medium lift/SAR rotary wing) and (4) MH-53E (heavy lift rotary wing) are PTDO in Norfolk, VA. NOTE: Battle Watch confirmed helo PTDO, but stated that one of the four MH-53s is inoperable and that they are identifying a replacement. USFF BWC confirmed the commands assisting are HSC 2, HSC 9, HSC 26, HM 14 and HM 15.

**Talking Points:**

- Statistics: None as of yet.
- Commander, U.S. Fleet Forces Command has directed that a variety of Navy commands begin moving north toward the areas affected by Hurricane Sandy. While this is not as a result of DSCA tasking, it is being done in order to have our forces best postured to be able to minimize the time to get them on station once they are tasked.

- Even if elements of these forces are not formally tasked this is an excellent training opportunity for Navy personnel in this critical area of DoD support to civil authority.
- Our thoughts and prayers go out to all those along the East Coast affected by Hurricane Sandy. The American people have resolve and determination to recover from major disasters and incidents.
- The U.S. Navy responds to national disasters when required, through the coordination of U.S. Northern Command. While the military plays an important role in disaster response, all our efforts are in support of FEMA first and foremost, who coordinate closely with state and local officials.
- The Navy has a great deal of expertise in the area of response and recovery, gained from human assistance/disaster response (HADR) efforts including the earthquakes and/or tsunamis in Indonesia, Haiti and Japan. In addition, the Navy played a key role in response and recovery operations in the Katrina-affected Gulf Coast states.
- USS Wasp (LHD 1) was one of a number of vessels that sortied from her homeport in advance of Hurricane Sandy.

**Question/Answers:**

**Q. What is the Navy's role in Hurricane Sandy recovery operations?**

A. The Navy and all military services assist in disaster recovery through FEMA. This is referred to as: Defense Support of Civil Authorities (DSCA). This is DoD's effort to bring our personnel and equipment to bear on FEMA-led disaster response. The Navy has a great deal of expertise in the area of response and recovery, gained from human assistance/disaster response (HADR) efforts including the earthquakes and/or tsunamis in Indonesia, Haiti and Japan. In addition, the Navy played a key role in response and recovery operations in the Katrina-affected Gulf Coast states.

**Q. What kind of help can the Navy provide?**

A. The Navy has a broad range of lifesaving and life sustaining assets that can assist in response and recovery for DSCA efforts. Navy ships can operate as floating airports, providing local, state and federal helicopters a staging area just off the coast of an affected area. Navy Seabees and other expeditionary forces can clear ports, rebuild infrastructure and provide temporary emergency shelters. Navy aircraft can provide lift capabilities as requested by civilian authorities.

**Q. What ships and personnel are the Navy sending to help with recovery efforts?**

A. To date the Navy has identified USS WASP (LHD 1), USS SAN ANTONIO (LPD 17) AND USS CARTER HALL (LSD 50) for primary assistance in the affected area. Six MH-60 Seahawk [medium lift] helicopters and four MH-53 Sea Dragon [heavy lift] helicopters are also available to assist FEMA's response. Navy Expeditionary Combat Command (NECC) personnel – to include SeaBees – will be part the team embarked on these ships.

**Q. Is USS Bataan still going to be able to host the NCAA basketball Navy and Marine Corps Classic on Nov. 9?**

A1. Yes, USS Bataan is still scheduled to fulfill her assigned task in the game.

**Source/Coord:** USFF

**PA Lead:** USFF

**CHINFO POC:**