



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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AmericasRelief Team Positioned as Central Point for US Relief Aid to Haiti

As soon as the Haiti Earthquake struck, ART mobilized its partners to secure available cargo space on its vessels. In the month since the crisis began, ART has facilitated to transport of over 6.8 million pounds of strategically needed donations, aboard 5 different charter vessels and numerous containers, at no cost to the non-profit sector.

Haiti has long been of great concern to ART. In 2005, the Ministry of Interior and Territorial Collectivities in Haiti selected ART to develop a program to provide assistance for project management in order to implement a national logistics disaster system in Haiti. The partnership allowed Haiti to reinforce its response capabilities in high-risk disaster areas.

During meetings held in Miami, Florida on December 6 & 7, 2005, a consortium of emergency relief agencies, U.S. government, and Haitian Government representatives have proposed to assign [AmericasRelief Team](#) with the important task of becoming the “central point of contact for U.S. relief aid to Haiti”.

Amongst the tasks to be assigned to [AmericasRelief Team](#) are the following:

- Coordinate programmatic conflict among agencies.
- Direct and manage the response of humanitarian agencies, thus reducing overlapping aid agencies sectoral and geographic jurisdiction.
- Manage the inevitable competition for aid resources and media coverage.
- Adhere to transparent procedures and documentation to demonstrate a fair distribution of the items to the disaster victims.
- Maintain a website to show real-time inventory levels. A weekly or monthly query will keep up-to-date with inventory status.

Entities participating in the discussions, which include the formal development of a comprehensive National Disaster Plan for Haiti included: The Haitian Resource Development Foundation (HRDF); Ground.Ocean.Air.Logistics. (GOAL); The Regional Director Latin America and Caribbean, United States Agency for International Development (USAID)’s Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance; Florida’s Governor Bush’s Office; Office of the Director, Protection Civile (DPC) in Haiti ; Florida Association for Volunteer Action in the Caribbean and the Americas (FAVACA); The International Office for Migrations (IOM); The office of the Coordinator of Caribbean Disaster Emergency Relief Agency (CDERA); Pan American Development Foundation (PADF); and Americas Relief Team.

AmericasRelief Team looks forward to the challenge and the opportunity to help the country of Haiti in their task of saving lives by implementing a professional and organized disaster program that will focus on: preparedness, comprehensive response, relief to affected communities & individuals, recovery & reconstruction, and mitigation.

The following are some photos from the meetings:



Haiti Delegation headed by Alta Jean-Baptiste, Director, Protection Civile (DPC) in Haiti.



The meetings were coordinated by Dr. Aldy Castor, President of the Haitian Resource Development Foundation (HRDF)



Jeremy Haslam, Emergency and Post Conflict Officer, International Office for Migrations (IOM)



Eric Williams, President of Ground.Ocean.Air.Logistics, Inc. (G.O.A.L)

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AmericasRelief Team's is a consortium of non-governmental organizations working in the field, as well as cargo carrying corporations operating throughout the Americas out of Miami, Florida. ART works all year long to obtain a commitment from its partners in the cargo industry for free or discounted space on their vessels from humanitarian assistance from our partner NGOs at times of crisis.

AmericasRelief Team's partners include top executives from American Red Cross of Greater Miami & the Keys; Antillean Marine Shipping Corp, Carnival Corporation; FedEx Latin America; Baptist Health System; Belle Plume Communications; Caribbean Central America Action (CCAA); Cross International: DRT International, Enterprise Florida; Feed the Children; Lucent Technologies; Caribbean Central America Action (CCAC); Florida Stevedoring; Food for the Poor; Miami-Dade

Aviation Department; Miami River Marine Group; Port of Miami Terminal Operating Co. (POMTOC), Seaboard Marine; SeaFreight Agencies USA; Florida Association for Volunteer Action in the Caribbean and the Americas (FAVACA); Harvest International; Pan American Development Foundation (PADF); República; WorldCity Media; World Vision-South Florida.