

DHSS Applications Support Rapid Relief Efforts in Earthquake Battered Haiti

Within minutes of hearing about the 7.0 earthquake in Haiti, the Defense Health Services Systems Medical Logistics Division sprang into action.

The Medical Operations Directorate, Defense Supply Center Philadelphia, led by U.S. Army Colonel Marsha Langlois, alerted its teams to begin rapidly stocking the U.S. Navy ship Comfort in the Port of Baltimore, Md. Staff from the Joint Medical Logistics Functional Development Center in Ft. Detrick, Md.,

assisted in installing security patches and system upgrades to the DMLSS server on the Comfort.

Using existing Prime Vendor contracts and the Defense Medical Logistics Standard Support, the Contingency Automation Application, Medical Product Data Bank, and Electronic Catalog applications, vital medical supplies were researched, sourced, ordered, and delivered to the Comfort within 48 hours. These medical logistics information technology applications helped ensure

the most rapid stocking of medical supplies on the Comfort in recent history. While in port, the Comfort maintains a minimal crew with limited supplies. Typically, and depending on the mission, it can take up to five days to restock the 1,000-bed Comfort.

After departing the Port of Baltimore on Jan. 16, the Comfort made supply stops in Norfolk, Va., and Jacksonville, Fla., to collect more crew, fuel, medical supplies, water, and food. "For us (medical logisticians) it's like hitting a moving target," says DHSS Medical Logistics Deputy Program Manager U.S. Army Colonel Chris Harrington. "The Navy has developed and used this method of stocking its ships underway since the 1700s, and



The medical supply routes to Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

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The U.S. Navy Ship Comfort.

it's vital to the rapid work required to help the Navy help those urgently needing medical assistance in Haiti."

DHSS Medical Logistics staff at JMLFDC participate in daily teleconferences with medical logistics staff in Philadelphia, the Army, the Air Force, the Navy, and the United States Southern Command. These calls focus on the medical concept of operations and IT requirements for medical logistics operations at the Theater Lead Agent for Medical Materiel. A TLAMM serves as the supporting hub for theater medical materiel distribution and supply chain administration and provides oversight and management of medical supplies and pharmaceuticals. Kelly USA in San Antonio, Texas, operated by the U.S. Air Force, is charged with TLAMM oversight for this relief effort.

Additional challenges these teams face is low or no connectivity for the medical logistics IT systems used to order and manage medical supplies. "In this type of emergency, the bandwidth of the ship or the units on the ground in Haiti can quickly become a significant constraint," says Harrington. "Our medical logistics IT systems are very responsive and flexible and are built to work despite low or no Internet connectivity to ensure our service medical treatment teams get the supplies they need."

The logistics teams here in the United States are providing 24-hour support to deliver equipment, bandages and medicines to the military medical teams in Haiti. Those teams are working even harder as described in the following e-mail from onboard the Comfort. "I watch in silent amazement at the efforts of all the personnel working in the CASREC (casualty receiving) area of the Comfort," says U.S. Navy Cmdr. Lawrence G. Coleman. "Most have been working for hours and hours in hot conditions with only a short break here and there. We send up food for them to eat right there next to their work; amazing dedication. As patients are stabilized and prepared to go to surgery, it all seems like a whirl of motion. As soon as a patient is wheeled out to the OR (operating room) that space is prepped for the next patient coming in. Everyone keeps reminding each other that this isn't a 100-yard dash, it's a marathon with the goal to pace yourself for the long haul. All seven of my roommates in my stateroom are doctors and nurses and they come and go for a few hours sleep then back to duty. My hat is off to all of them."

Limited Deployment Sites Selected for Patient Safety Reporting

Patient Safety Reporting received a Milestone C decision on Jan. 11 and pre-implementation meetings have begun for the nine sites where limited deployment will be held. The nine sites are Fort Meade, Fort Benning, Madigan Army Medical Center, National Naval Medical Center Bethesda, Naval Hospital Camp Lejeune, Naval Hospital Pensacola, Andrews Air Force Base, Wilford Hall Medical Center and Davis-Monthan Air Force Base.

PSR training at these sites will begin on Feb. 22 with the first go-live scheduled for Mar. 8. When fully deployed, PSR will deliver standardized patient safety event reporting for the Department of Defense Military Health System direct care facilities. PSR's analytic tools identify areas for patient safety



Project Controller Donna Sheets, left, and U.S. Public Health Cdr. Donald Sawyer demonstrate PSR at the MHS Conference held on Jan. 25 - 27 in Washington D.C.



and quality improvement initiatives to reduce the frequency and severity of medical safety events. The PSR system is anonymous, secure, confidential, and easily accessible online and incorporates intuitive point and click drop-down menus and free-text fields. All military treatment facility staff with a Common Access Card will use PSR to report medication and non-medication related events, including near misses, allowing for a consolidated, streamlined patient safety event monitoring system.

For additional information about PSR please contact PSR Project Controller Donna Sheets at 703-575-6500 or via e-mail to donna.sheets.ctr@tma.osd.mil.

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Additional Relief Support in Haiti

Outlined below is the additional application support DHSS is providing to the Joint Task Force Haiti led by U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Ken Keen.

Using DMLSS Retail and DMLSS Wholesale, DHSS Medical Logistics is helping the Army's 82nd Airborne's brigade combat team in Haiti to process supply requests through Womack Army Medical Center at Fort Bragg, N.C., for shipment from Pope Air Force Base to the brigade team.

The Air Force is setting up a mobile emergency medicine unit and has asked DHSS to provide step-by-step instructions on how to export DMLSS Customer Assistance Module files to fulfill medical and pharmaceutical supply orders. The Marines are using DCAM and DMLSS to order supplies for their mobile military expeditionary hospital.

At the request of the Navy, the Defense Medical Human Resources System-internet has started weekly data feeds from the Navy Expeditionary Medical Program for Augmentation and Readiness Tracking to capture near real-time data on the Navy's 1,500 member deployment to Haiti. Previously, EMPARTS data was fed into DMHRSi every two weeks.

For the latest information on military medical relief efforts in Haiti, log onto www.health.mil.

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eXpresso is a publication of the Defense Health Services Systems Office, Office of the Chief Information Officer, supporting the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs/TRICARE Management Activity.

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