

Sailors assigned to the amphibious assault ship USS Essex (LHD 2) watch as an MH-60S Sea Hawk helicopter transports humanitarian assistance supplies from the Military Sealift Command dry cargo and ammunition ship USNS Matthew Perry (T-AKE 9) to Essex. Essex is underway to Japan to provide humanitarian assistance following a 9.0 magnitude earthquake and subsequent tsunami. (Photo by: Petty Officer 2nd Class Casey H. Kyhl)

A Japan Self-Defense Force armored vehicle is craned aboard the amphibious dock landing ship USS Tortuga (LSD 46). Tortuga loaded humanitarian supplies and more than 20 vehicles to support Operation Tomodachi, a humanitarian assistance mission in the wake of a 9.0 magnitude earthquake and a subsequent tsunami in Japan. (Photo by: Lt. K. Madison Carter)

A naval air crewman assigned to Helicopter Anti-submarine Squadron Light 43 embarked aboard the guided-missile destroyer USS Preble (DDG 88) provides fuel to a Japanese man for his kerosene heater. Preble is conducting humanitarian assistance operations in support of Operation Tomodachi. (Photo by: Petty Officer 3rd Class Kevin MacDonald)

Lt. Cmdr. Derek Peterson, 7th Fleet Salvage officer from Cocoa, Fla., presents a briefing to a Hachinohe Port Authority official that details the capabilities the U.S. Navy salvage teams could provide if needed. A 9.0-magnitude earthquake triggered a massive tsunami on Japan's eastern coast, causing severe damage to many of the country's coastal towns including Hachinohe. (U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Devon Dow)

Local Japanese women wave goodbye to Misawa Air Base service members and family members following a cleanup effort in the their tsunami-battered community of Hachinohe, Japan. More than 50 volunteers from Misawa Air Base assisted with the cleanup here following the 9.0-magnitude earthquake that triggered a devastating tsunami on Japan's eastern coastline. (U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Thomas Ahern/Released)

Sgt. Dustin Ogburn from Selah, Wash., assigned to 35th Fighter Wing Operations Support Squadron, along with other base volunteers, shovel sand off the road during a local cleanup effort. More than 50 volunteers from Misawa Air Base assisted with the cleanup at Hachinohe, Japan, following the 9.0-magnitude earthquake that triggered a devastating tsunami on Japan's eastern coastline. (U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Thomas Ahern/Released)

Thousands of pounds of relief supplies sit on the flightline here March 18 in preparation to be shipped to mainland Japan in support of Operation Tomodachi. III MEF Marines and sailors are supporting government of Japan-led humanitarian assistance/disaster relief operations in mainland Japan following the 9.0 magnitude earthquake and subsequent tsunami that struck northern Japan March 11.

Marines from III Marine Expeditionary Force load gear into a KC-130J Super Hercules cargo aircraft en route to mainland Japan in support of Operation Tomodachi, March 18. III MEF Marines and sailors are supporting Government of Japan-led humanitarian assistance/disaster relief operations in mainland Japan following the 9.0 magnitude earthquake and subsequent tsunami that struck northern Japan March 11.

Lance Cpl. Jamaal Smith, a Bakersfield, Calif. native and freight clerk for Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, Marine Corps Air Station Futenma, directs a KC-130J Super Hercules cargo aircraft to the runway here March 18. III MEF Marines and sailors are supporting Government of Japan-led humanitarian assistance/ disaster relief operations in mainland Japan following the 9.0 magnitude earthquake and subsequent tsunami that struck northern Japan March 11.

TOMAKOMAI (March 16, 2011) - Cmdr. A. D. Ragland, commanding officer of USS Tortuga (LSD 46), compares navigation charts with Cmdr. Koji Goto, commanding officer of the Japanese destroyer JS Jintsu (DE 230). Goto is on board Tortuga to serve as additional support and a liaison. Personnel loaded 93 vehicles and 273 Japan Ground Self-Defense Force troops to provide disaster relief and humanitarian assistance to Japan as directed in support of Operation Tomodachi. (U.S. Navy photo by Lt. K. Madison Carter)

TOMAKOMAI KO, Japan (March 16, 2011) - Culinary Specialists Seaman Apprentice Ralph Edwards gets a few cooking tips from Takahisa Nagamuri from Japan Ground Self-Defense Force (JGSDF). The two worked together in Tortuga's galley to help prepare food for both USS Tortuga (LSD 46) and JGSDF personnel. Tortuga is operating in the 7th fleet area of operations in support of Operation Tomodachi. (U. S. Navy photo by Lt. K. Madison Carter)

TOMOKAMAI KO, Japan (March 16, 2011) – Japan Ground Self-Defense Force vehicles line the well deck of USS Tortuga (LSD 46) after being delivered by Landing Craft Utility (LCU) 1627. Personnel loaded 93 vehicles and 273 Japan Ground Self-Defense Force troops to provide disaster relief and humanitarian assistance to Japan as directed in support of Operation Tomodachi. (U. S. Navy Photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Scott Bourque)

TOMAKOMAI KO, Japan (March 15, 2011) – Military personnel and media representatives take advantage of the opportunity to document USS Tortuga (LSD 46) being pier side in Tomakomai Ko. This is the first time in history a U. S. warship has come to the pier. Tortuga is operating in Japan in support of the humanitarian assistance and disaster relief mission Operation Tomodachi. (U. S. Navy Photo by Lt. K. Madison Carter)

SENDAI, Japan (March 15, 2011) - Aircrew Rescue Swimmer 3rd Class Kevin MacDonald assigned to Helicopter Anti-submarine Squadron Light (HSL) 43 peers out over Sendai as the crew conducts search and rescue operations. HSL 43 is embarked on board USS Preble (DDG 88) and is currently conducting Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief operations in support of Operation Tomodachi. (U.S. Navy Photo by Naval Air Crewmen 2nd Class James Darnell)

MIYAGI PREFECTURE, Japan (March 14, 2011) - Naval Air Crewmen 1st Class Joshua Vogel, left, and Naval Air Crewmen 3rd Class Mathias Lane from U.S. Navy Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron (HS) 14 work with local emergency response personnel to assess the immediate needs of residents affected by the earthquake and subsequent tsunami which struck northern Japan on March 11. HS-14 is forward deployed to Naval Air Facility Atsugi, Japan, are executing Search and Rescue missions in Miyagi Prefecture in support of Operation Tomodachi.

PACIFIC OCEAN (March 15, 2011) - An HH-60H Sea Hawk assigned to the Black Knights of Anti-Submarine Squadron (HS) 4 prepares to land on the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) to reload emergency supplies, food, and water. Ronald Reagan Sea Hawk helicopters are transporting supplies, providing disaster relief and humanitarian assistance to Japan in support of Operation Tomodachi. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Apprentice Michael Feddersen)

PACIFIC OCEAN (March 14, 2011) – Sailors from Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron (HS) 4 move dozens of cases fresh water to Sea Hawk helicopters on the flight deck of the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) prior to flying supplies and conducting Search and Rescue operations over mainland Japan. Ronald Reagan is off the coastline of Japan to provide disaster relief and humanitarian assistance to Japan as directed in support of Operation Tomodachi. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Alexander Tidd)

OMINATO, Japan (March 17, 2011) – Cmdr. Koji Goto, commanding officer JS Jintsu (DE 230) confirms the best place for anchorage with Cmdr. John Barnett, executive officer of USS Tortuga (LSD 46). Cmdr. Goto road with Tortuga from Tomakomai Ko to Ominato. The U. S. warship transported 97 Japan Ground Self-Defense Force vehicles between the two locations in support of Operation Tomodachi. (U.S. Navy photo by Lt. K. Madison Carter)

Airman 1st Class Veronica Cox loads relief supplies onto an HH-60G Pave Hawk helicopter March 14, 2011, at Sendai, Japan. Airman Cox was part of a search and rescue team surveying the earthquake stricken area of Northeastern Japan. (U.S. Air Force photo/Airman 1st Class Katrina R. Menchaca)

Debris covers the shores and low-lying ground around Sendai Airport, Japan on March 16. Members of the 320th Special Tactics Squadron, stationed out of Kadena Air Base, deployed to Sendai Airport to help clear the runway and make it ready for fixed-wing aircraft traffic. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Samuel Morse)

Staff Sgt. Chris Allen from the 320th Special Tactics Squadron special operations weather team checks the windspeed and temperature at Sendai airport, Japan on March 16. Sudden snow and low visibility threatened to prevent aircraft from landing at the airfield. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Samuel Morse)

Airmen from the 320th Special Tactics Squadron assess debris on the runway at Sendai airport, Japan on March 16. Members of the 320th STS, stationed out of Kadena Air Base, deployed to Sendai Airport to help clear the runway and make it ready for fixed-wing aircraft traffic. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Samuel Morse)

A humvee carrying Airmen from the 320th Special Tactics Squadron travels down a Japanese highway towards Sendai Airport on March 16. Members of the 320th STS, stationed out of Kadena Air Base,

deployed to Sendai Airport to help clear the runway and make it ready for fixed-wing aircraft traffic. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Samuel Morse)

Tech. Sgt. Ray Decker, 320th Special Tactics Squadron, prepares his rucksack prior to boarding an MC-130P Combat Shadow here March 16. Members of the 320th STS, stationed out of Kadena Air Base, Japan, deployed to Sendai Airport to help clear the runway and make it ready for fixed-wing aircraft traffic. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Samuel Morse)

Airmen from the 320th Special Tactics Squadron exit an MC-130P Combat Shadow on their way to Sendai Airport here March 16. Members of the 320th STS, stationed out of Kadena Air Base, deployed to Sendai Airport to help clear the runway and make it ready for fixed-wing aircraft traffic. (U.S. Air Force photo/Staff Sgt. Samuel Morse)

A joint team of U.S. Airmen and Marines take photographs near Sendai Airport, Japan, March 13, 2011, while surveying the aftermath of the 9.0-magnitude earthquake and subsequent tsunami that struck the region. The service members are search and rescue professionals assisting with Japan's earthquake and tsunami recovery effort. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Samuel Morse)

U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Giovanni Miranda from the 36th Airlift Squadron at Yokota Air Base, Japan, watches the clearance of a fuels truck as it is loaded onto a U.S. Air Force C-130H Hercules cargo aircraft March 15, 2011. The fuels truck was taken to Yamagota Airport to support Japan's earthquake and tsunami relief efforts. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Jonathan Steffen)

Members of the Los Angeles Search and Rescue team, Task Force 2, sleep on board a U.S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster III cargo aircraft while en route to Japan during an emergency response March 12, 2011. Aircrew from the 4th Airlift Squadron out of McChord Air Force Base, Wash., are transporting Los Angeles Search and Rescue team members and equipment to Japan to aid in recovery and care of victims of the recent earthquake. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Daniel St. Pierre)

Air Force and Marine airlift and rescue leadership look out over the debris left at Sendai Airport, Japan, following a massive earthquake and subsequent tsunami March 13. The small dots covering the runway are vehicles left there after the tsunami water receded. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Samuel Morse)

U.S. Air Force Col. Michael Rothstein, the 35th Fighter Wing commander, talks with United States Agency for International Development search and rescue team members on the flight line at Misawa Air Base, Japan, March 13, 2011. Teams from the Los Angeles County Fire Department and the Fairfax County, Va., Urban Search and Rescue arrived in support of Operation Tomodachi to assist with civil relief and recovery operations. (U.S. Air Force Photo by Staff Sgt. Marie Brown)

U.S. Air Force search and rescue personnel witness a house adrift off the coast of northeastern Japan, March 14. The U.S. Air Force HH-60G helicopter crew surveyed the damage stricken area as part of Japan's earthquake and tsunami recovery effort. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Katrina R. Menchaca)

U.S. Air Force Airmen load a pallet onto a U.S. Air Force C-17A Globemaster III cargo aircraft at March Air Reserve Base, Calif., March 12, 2011. The supplies are en route to Japan for earthquake relief efforts. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Matthew Smith)

A Japanese disaster medical assistance team carries an earthquake victim to an awaiting U.S. Air Force HH-60G helicopter, March 14. American search and rescue personnel transported the Japanese citizen to a nearby hospital for treatment. (U.S. Air Force photo by Airman 1st Class Katrina R. Menchaca)

The northeastern tip of Japan experienced an earthquake measuring 8.9 on the Richter scale, March 11, 2011. The quake's epicenter was just off shore between Misawa Air Base and Yokota Air Base, and registered the strongest in Japan's history. It was followed by a tsunami damaging the island's eastern coast. Massive relief efforts are ongoing and en-route to the region in support to many citizens that are without basic necessities. All the while, recurring quakes and nuclear plant explosions continue to threaten more potential damage and harm to Japan's population. (Courtesy graphic)

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Eric Jordan, a 15th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief, removes pitot covers during a pre-flight maintenance inspection on a U.S. Air Force C-17 Globemaster III cargo aircraft at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, before departing on a humanitarian mission to Japan on March 12, 2011. The aircraft will travel to various Air Force bases in Japan during its mission to provide support for relief efforts in the wake of tsunami and earthquake damage in Japan. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Nathan Allen)

U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Michael Wells, a 33rd Rescue Squadron aerial gunner, and members of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force refuel a U.S. Air Force HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter March 13, 2011. Yamagata is a possible fuel staging area in support of Japan's earthquake and tsunami recovery efforts. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Samuel Morse)

